GERMAN CAMOUFLAGED HELMETS OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR

← BACK

Branislav Radovic

TWO

Wire, Netting, Covers, Straps, Interiors and Miscellaneous

A SCHIFFER MILITARY HISTORY BOOK

German Camouflaged Helmets of the Second World War

Branislav Radovic

This two volume set (companions to the author's previous books on World War II German helmets) is packed with nearly 1000 full-color photographs of more than 180 helmets and covers, all shown at full page size and many in detail. The helmets shown are some of the most wonderful and exotic camouflage helmets to be seen in private and public collections.

The various sections are divided into: Paint, Texture, Wire, Covers, Netting, Straps, Interiors and Miscellaneous with each section having its own period photograph reference section – most never before published. The author brings to the reader and collector, for the first time, a clear, detailed look at the many and varied styles of camouflage the World War II German soldier applied to what was his most personal piece of equipment.

GERMAN CAMOUFLAGED HELMETS OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR

Also by the Author

HELMETS OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR *(with Michael Haselgrove)*

GERMAN HELMETS OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR *(two volumes)*

GERMAN CAMOUFLAGED HELMETS
■ OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR ■

Volume Two: Wire, Netting, Covers, Straps, Interiors and Miscellaneous

Branislav Radovic

Schiffer Military History
Atglen, PA

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It is with a deep sense of gratitude that the author would like to thank the men who own some of the world's best German World War II helmets. Without their help, these books would not have been possible – they gave their time generously and without condition.

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The author would also like to explain that any errors in captions or credits are entirely his own and apologises to any contributor wrongly acknowledged or for any helmets incorrectly described.

In alphabetical order:

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These volumes are dedicated to those who struggle to keep all history alive and have not succumbed to current social pressure to remember only approved or sanitised subjects.

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Additional photography by Branislav Radovic and Michael Kapitzke.

We are always looking for people to write books on new and related subjects. If you have an idea for a book, please contact us at the address below.

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Introduction

A BRIEF HISTORY OF MILITARY CAMOUFLAGE

Camouflage *n.* 1. the exploitation of natural surroundings, or artificial aids to conceal or disguise the presence of military units, etc. 2. (of fabric or clothing) having a design of irregular patches, in dull colours (such as browns and greens), as used in military camouflage. 3. the means by which animals escape the notice of predators. 4. a device or expedient devised to conceal or deceive. Origin 20C: from French, *camoufler*, from Italian, *camuffare*, to disguise. (As described by the *Collins Concise Dictionary*, 21st Century edition.)

Although the presence of camouflage within the animal kingdom has been with us for thousands, if not millions, of years, it was rather late in coming to humans. Notwithstanding the natural desire for any soldier, sailor or airman to make himself as invisible as possible in battle, it was not taken really seriously, nor officially recognised by the British, at least, until the second half of the 19th century, in places such as India, the Sudan and fighting the Boers in South Africa.

To take the British as an example, previosuly their uniform tunic was scarlet in colour, designed to disguise the obvious and demoralising effects of sabre, sword and small arms fire on the human body. The scarlet tunic was relegated to the parade ground and replaced, on active service, with a more subdued earth tone. The new colour was named khaki after the Urdu and Persian word for dust or earth – *khak*.

Khaki colour was also used for headgear, replacing the white versions of topee, or sun helmet, and, for the time being, that was the limit of the new thinking on personal camouflage.

First World War

By the First World War, nearly all the combatants were wearing, if not actual earth tones, much more subdued colours: khaki for the British and Belgians; field-grey for Germans and Austrians; and blue-grey for the French.

In terms of headgear, the German army produced clip-on cloth covers in field-grey for their leather and metal *pickelhaubes*, and also in darker grey and white versions for winter. These covers not only protected the rather delicate helmets, but, more importantly, masked the brightness of the steel and brass fittings.

The French army were the first to produce a, supposedly, ballistically tested steel helmet, the new Model 1915 "Adrian", after its designer, Quarter-master-general Adrian. At first it was painted a light blue-grey gloss, but later in a matte finish. Finding that these early helmets tended to reflect too much light, particularly at night, they also produced a cloth cover, usually of two halves sewn together, in various shades of blue and light tan and attached to the helmet by a drawstring around the rim.

The Italian army initially adopted the French helmet design and eventually produced its own version, the Model 1916, which was painted olive green. They too produced cloth covers in the same style as their Gallic allies, but unlike the French, the Italians added insignia by stencilling, embroidery and sewn-on cloth badges.

The British and German armies were quick to follow the new trend and produced their own designs of steel helmet. In a remarkable, if not unique, flash of foresight, the earliest British helmet of 1915, named "Brodie" after its designer John Leopold Brodie, was initially produced in camouflage colours of orange and green, but the later production models were changed to apple green and then, lastly, to dark textured khaki. Perhaps the camouflage paint scheme was thought too radical, or expensive, to produce in the vast quantities that would be required. Cloth covers, made of canvas or hessian (burlap) were produced from one, two or more pieces, in various shades of tan and these too were attached to the helmets by a drawstring around the rim.

The German army's steel helmet made its first appearance in early 1916, around Verdun. It was painted smooth field-grey, which like the French, Italian and British versions became rather shiny with wear or when wet. In order to address this problem, cloth covers of tan, field-grey and white, for winter, were produced. These often had leather reinforcing to fit around the ventilation holes that supported the armoured browplate, and again, were secured to the helmet by drawstring or metal hooks that clipped around the rim.

None of these combatant nations were able, or willing, to produce enough of these camouflage covers to equip all their troops and so, inevitably the troops produced their own versions from materials at hand, often hessian or canvas, and in a myriad of designs and colours.

It was apparently the German High Command who were the first officially to sanction the application of camouflage paint schemes for helmets. In July 1918, it was ordered that if German troops wished to camouflage their steel helmets, they were to use no more than four colours, reflecting the surrounding seasonal tones, and to outline each colour with a finger's width of black, thus helping to break up the shape of the helmet.

Germany's Austrian allies produced their own steel helmet in 1916, the Berndorfer, but this design was superseded a year later by a copy of the German Model 1916, which was painted khaki. Cloth covers were not as much in use as in the German armed forces, but recorded examples are very similar to their German counterparts. There are also examples of Austrian-made steel helmets carrying the German painted camouflage scheme, described above.

Curiously, many surviving examples of Brodie-style American helmets are painted in various colours with the black outline, mimicking the German practice. Obviously, many US troops were greatly impressed with the German patterns, but it is not clear whether they actually wore these copied designs into battle. It seems more likely that they were painted as souvenirs to be brought home.

Inter-War Period

The immediate post-war period saw few real advances in the practice of camouflaging helmets, although some attempts were being made.

During the late 1930s, Dr Brandt of the SS-*Verfugungstruppen*, was experimenting with several designs of camouflage material that emulated various terrain and foliage. This coordinated camouflage would be used by the new politically-motivated arm of service that would, in March 1940, be re-named the Waffen-SS. These patterned designs were used on a sprung clip-on cloth cover, which was reversible from predominantly green for spring, to rust/brown for autumn. The covers were later produced with the addition of cloth loops to facilitate the attachment of local foliage to break up the helmet outline. These new SS designs were by far the most radical concepts in camouflage techniques to date and can even be thought of as the precursors of current usage.

The German army adopted a camouflage pattern as early as 1932. It is what collectors have come to call the "splinter" pattern – a design of jagged blocks of green and brown over a background of light green with thin strips of brown. The fabric was used for the poncho/tent quarter (*zeltbahn*) and seems not to have been used for camouflaging helmets until the mid-war period.

The inter-war period also saw the French military authorities continue to produce various cloth helmet covers in the same style as the Great War. Examples can be found made from a fairly close weave cotton and are usually made of two halves, with or without sewn tucks across the seam, in light khaki or white (presumably for mountain troops). They upgraded the design of the Adrian helmet with thicker steel, fewer pieces and a better liner system. Their uniforms were changed from blue-grey to khaki, and their helmets were painted to match.

The military forces of Imperial Japan were issued with a cloth helmet cover, as can be seen in photographs of Japanese troops in China in the mid-1930s. They were made from several panels of light khaki cloth, were padded to insulate against the heat, and attached to the helmet by drawstring. They often carried the insignia of the army (a yellow star) or navy (an anchor) embroidered on a small patch and sewn onto the front. Later photographs show these covers sometimes being worn with string netting over the top for attaching foliage, so important for fighting in the forests and jungles of the Far East.

Elsewhere, amongst the other soon-to-become combatant nations, this truly co-ordinated approach to camouflage and particularly the camouflaging of the steel helmet was not yet being adopted.

Second World War

By 1940/41, we see photographs of British troops in the Low Countries and Norway, wearing hessian covers, apparently a regulation type with loops for foliage, also many that seem to have been field-made. They were attached to the helmets by a drawstring and it is fairly clear these covers are direct descendants of the covers worn by troops in the 1914-18 war.

Several patterns of drawstring netting covers were also produced and issued on a large scale, particularly later in the war in the Far East and during the Liberation of Europe. British paratroops also wore two-colour netting covers and, from 1944, it became common practice throughout the land and airborne forces to add strips of hessian to the netting to disrupt the outline.

Early wartime photographs can be found of British helmets being worn with bands of wire attached. At least one clear example in the photographic archives of the Imperial War Museum in London, shows Medical Corps personnel attached to an armoured division, wearing this wire configuration over camouflage painted (black and green) helmets, during training. Another familiar style of camouflaged British helmet can be found in photographs of troops in Malta during the siege. These helmets were painted with patches of dark brown/khaki over a sand base colour. This was probably not a regulation pattern, but one becoming rather popular and widespread through practice and example, creating its own *esprit de corps*.

The United States of America appears not to have made very much use of camouflage, particularly for helmets. This probably reflects the isolationist, and essentially non-military, attitude of the American people at that time. Later in the war, however, a purpose-made regulation camouflage cover was produced for the Marine Corps. It was reversible from predominantly greens one side to browns on the other and was subsequently developed with small buttonhole-sized slits for foliage. Various patterns of string netting covers were also produced and attached by drawstring or by passing the bottom of the netting between the liner and the helmet shell.

It could be argued that the Italians were the first to produce a truly modern helmet shape, the Model 1933. The Futurist movement was sweeping the art world in the 1920s and 1930s and efforts to modernise their armed forces and its equipment reflected this. One only has to examine their medals and insignia to see the new streamlined approach to design emerging. A non-reversible light tan cloth cover was produced with a drawstring that carried an ink stamp inside of the king (VE) Vittorio Emanuele. It was manufactured in several sizes and was made from two halves sewn together. Later, during the war, other variations were created, some with a distinctive multi-coloured pattern and also some attached to the helmet by small hooks. Italian paratroops had their own covers, in the patterned material and with loops for foliage.

Having set the scene, let us focus on the German armed forces. At the start of the war in 1939, in Poland, it was fairly common practice to use the rubber tyre inner tubes to hold foliage around the circumference of the new model 1935 helmet. Needless to say, very few examples, if any, now exist with the original rubber attached. Another practice was to use a leather belt or the helmet carrying harness to hold camouflage cloth to the helmet. Regulation army camouflage material was not readily available at that time and so the strangest scraps of patterned cloth were being used. These were probably taken from the furnishings of homes deserted by their owners, or dress material taken from shop windows.

The earliest examples of true regulation camouflage covers are found in photographs of Waffen-SS troops in Holland in 1940. These are the early pattern, previously mentioned, before the addition of foliage loops, and are often pictured being worn by troops with the matching camouflage smocks. A matching, reversible spring-to-autumn face veil of camouflage printed strands was also produced to hide the face. The strands were thrown back over the top of the helmet when not in use.

Around 1941, the German army extended their use of the "splinter" camouflage material to helmet covers, usually of the drawstring type although examples of hook and sprung clips do exist, both with and without foliage loops. They were produced in both non-reversible and reversible (to white for winter fighting) formats. However, as in the First World War, field-made covers were common, most particularly in North Africa. If helmets were not painted in the tan vehicle colour, men would fashion covers from canvas or sandbag material.

The Lufwaffe paratroop (fallschirm) service developed its own cloth cover of a grey-green material for their Model 1938 steel helmet. It had a brown cloth band sewn around the circumference with a crossed loop on the top and was secured to the helmet by six hooks. Its first use seems to have been in autumn 1940. A later version used the same construction but adopted the army-style "splinter" pattern fabric and was first used in Crete in May 1941. Later still, a "blurred splinter/tan-water" patterned material was introduced for clothing and was used for field-made covers. Subsequent versions were also developed with a drawstring attachment instead of hooks.

Netting covers were also produced for the army and Luftwaffe, the most common being an open weave design of knotted string which could be attached to the helmet by tucking the netting down between the liner band and the shell, or by using hooks to clip under the helmet rim. A drawstring threaded through the netting around the circumference helped to keep the whole thing tight onto the helmet shell. An extended piece of netting at the front of the helmet was used as a face veil and could be held back over the helmet by two small hooks. Other types of netting existed, some attached by hooks instead of drawstring. Great use was made of captured helmet netting, particularly in the fighting around the Anzio, Cassino and Normandy fronts.

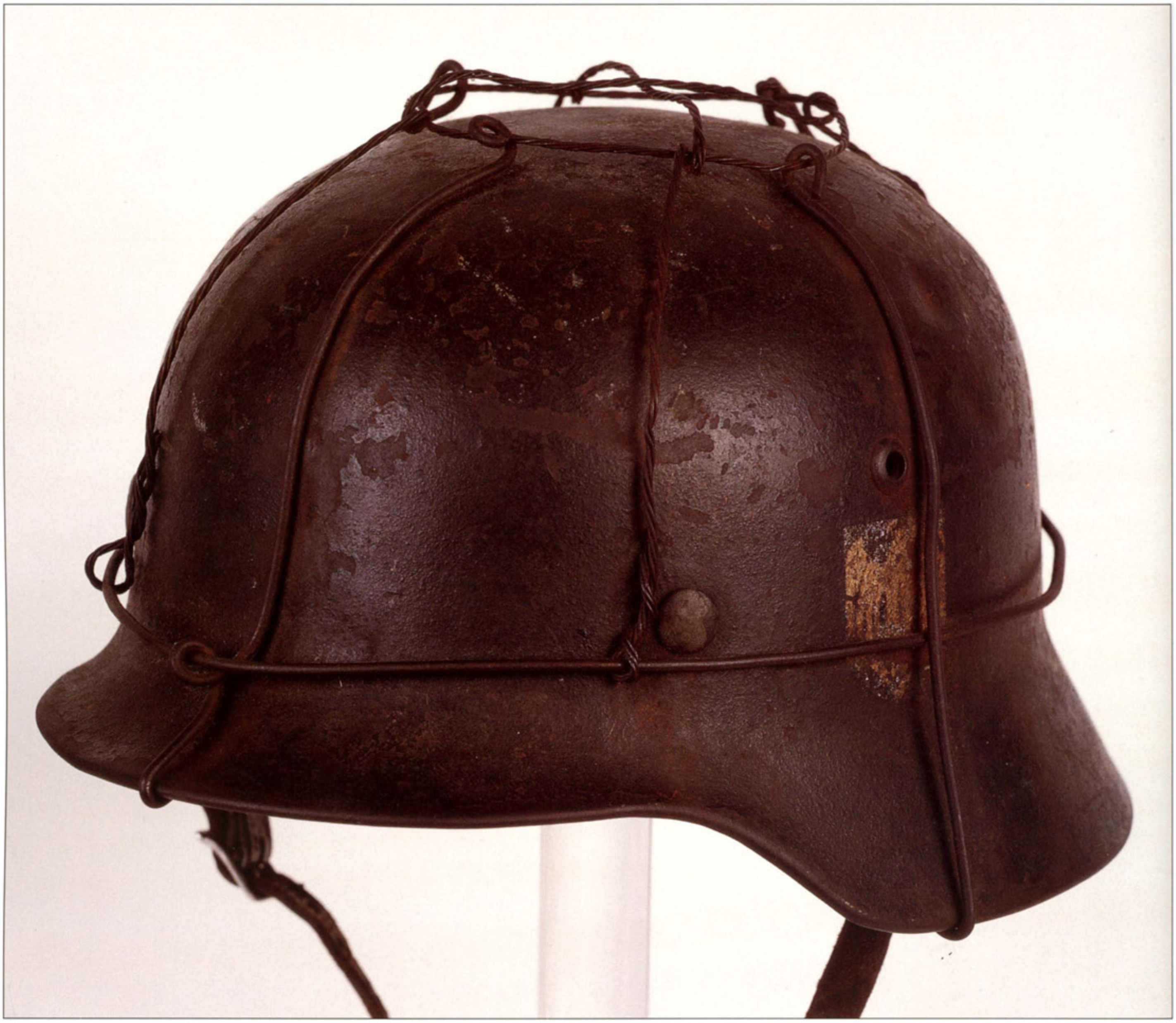
The most individual, and perhaps the most interesting, form of helmet camouflage is the owner-painted type. As we have already seen, the practice of painting camouflage colours directly onto the helmet surface began, in earnest, during the First World War. Although it became fairly common to all armies of the Second World War, it was particularly prevalent in the German armed forces.

The most common types were: the simple expedient of dulling down the factory finish with matt paint; the use of sand-coloured vehicle paint in North Africa, sub-tropical Italy or Soviet Union; water-soluble whitewash for winter campaigning, which could be scrubbed off in spring or spirit-based white paint which could be over-painted; multi-colour schemes of tan, brown and green to blend in with the local flora; and combinations of contrasting shades, sometimes of the most unlikely colours, to create a disruptive or "dazzle" effect. In addition, various elements, such as sand, grit or wood chips, were added to the paint to alter the texture and reflective qualities. This is often referred to as "*zimmerit*", after the anti-magnetic mine paste applied to armoured vehicles during the second half of the war.

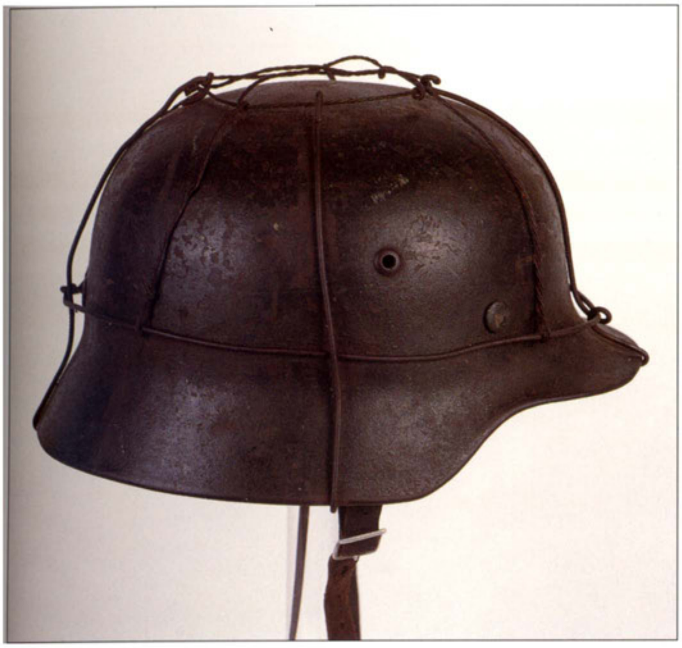
The protective steel helmet was one of the most vital and personal pieces of equipment a soldier possessed. As I hope this book will show, all manners of systems and styles of camouflage coverings were used – bands of string, wire and strips of steel, with and without cloth covering – making the variations practically endless. So too are the painted helmets with every conceivable pattern, colouring and texture, reflecting the skills of the individuals who produced them. Some are of the greatest technical quality and intricacy; some are bold, while others are subtle. Many are very crude and some verge on the artistic.

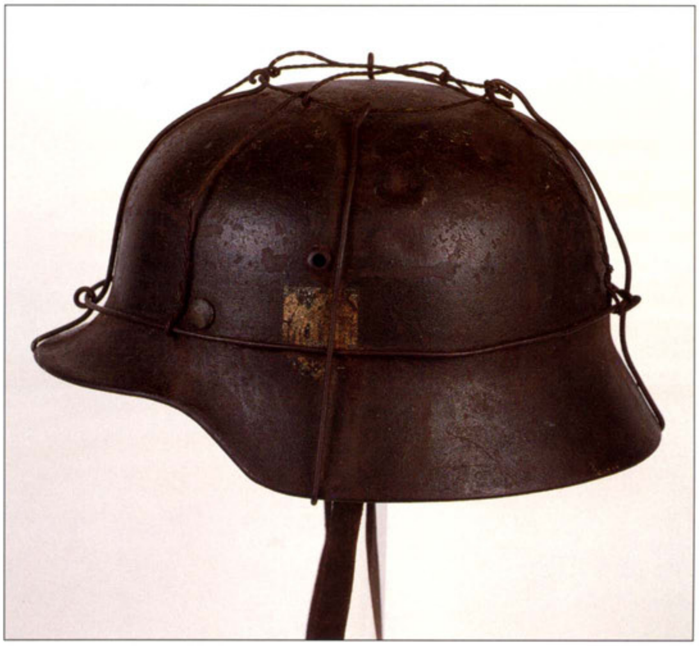
On one level, camouflage helmets are wonderful and desirable in their own right as military collectibles. On another, deeper, level, each one gives us an insight into the soldier's awareness of the world around him, how seriously he took the art of concealment and perhaps, even, a little of his character, which he reveals, albeit inadvertently, by his choice of colours, patterns and materials.

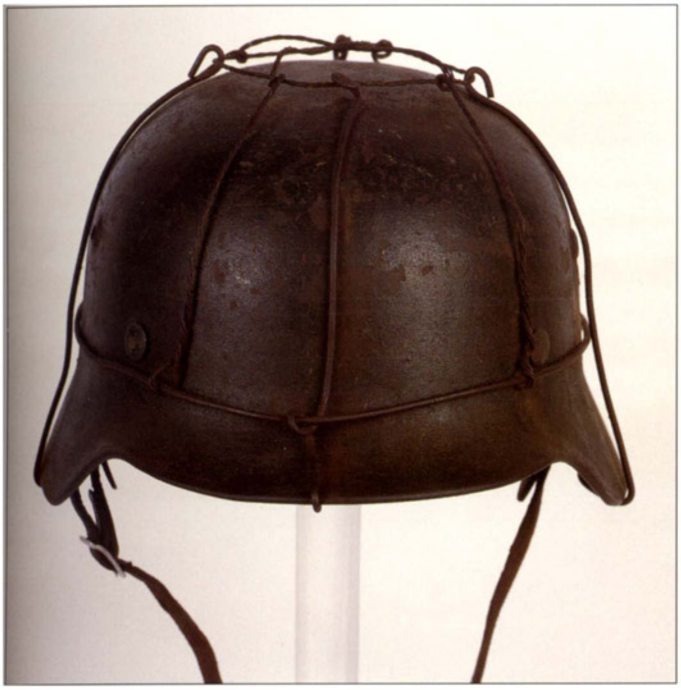
Chapter Three: Wire

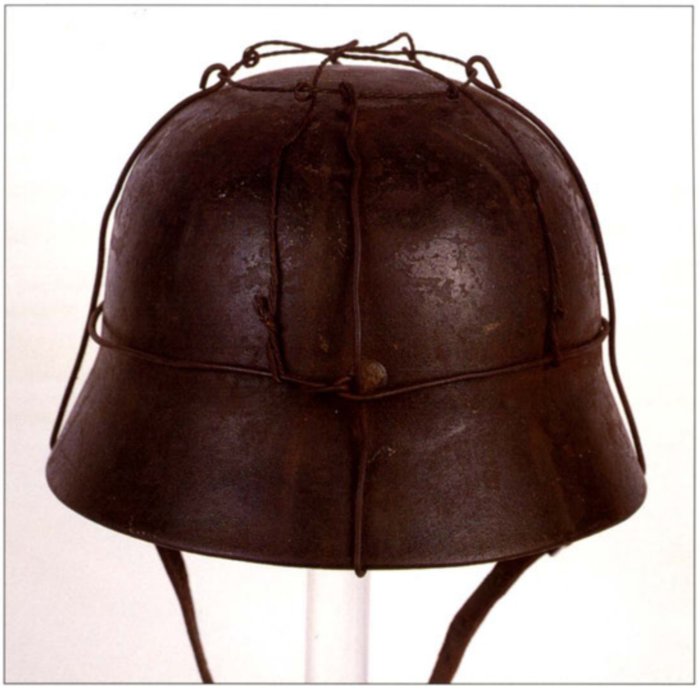


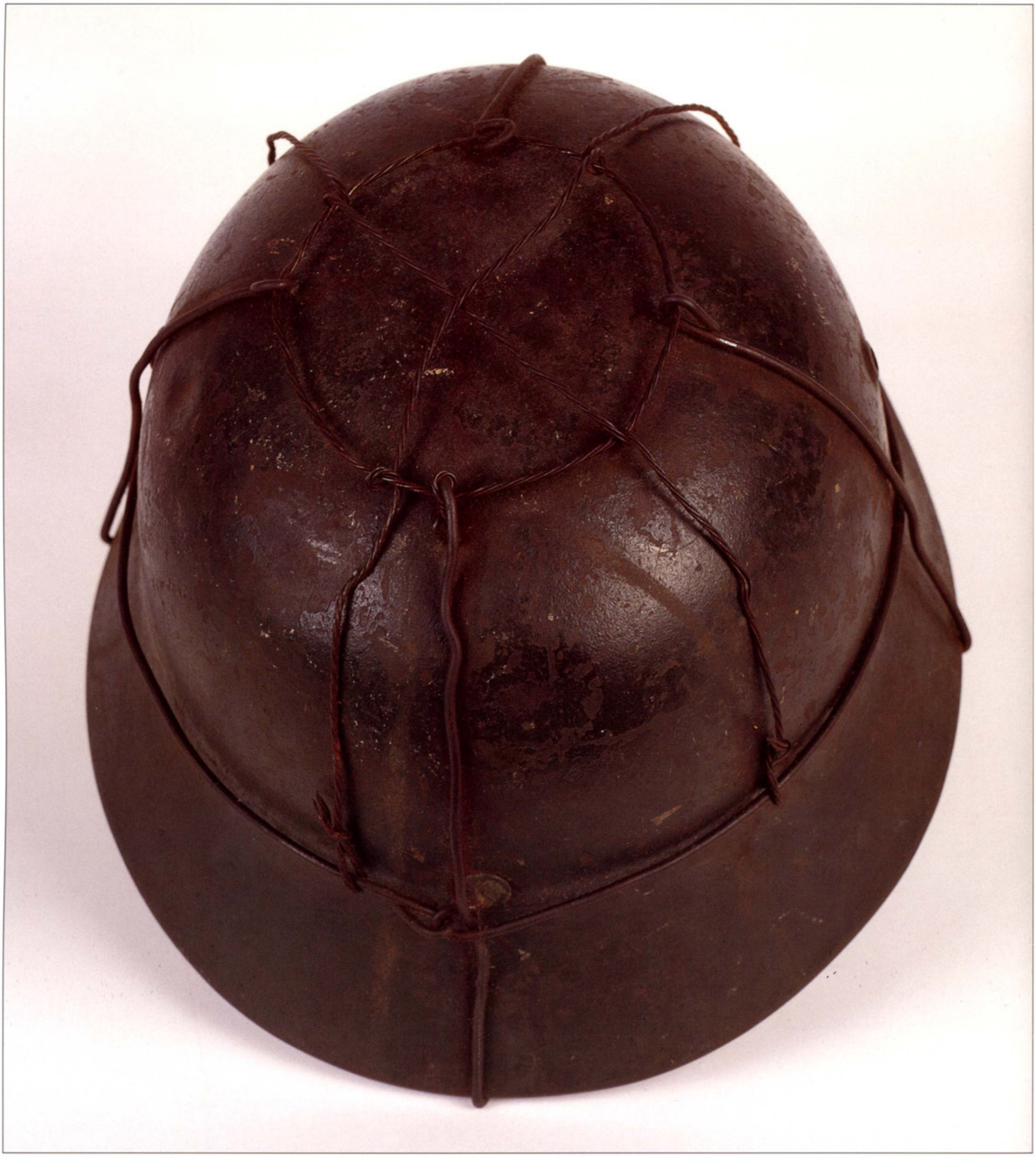
■ M35 with a well-worn Kriegsmarine eagle insignia, with a cage of single strand and twisted wire. (Collection of John Bennet)

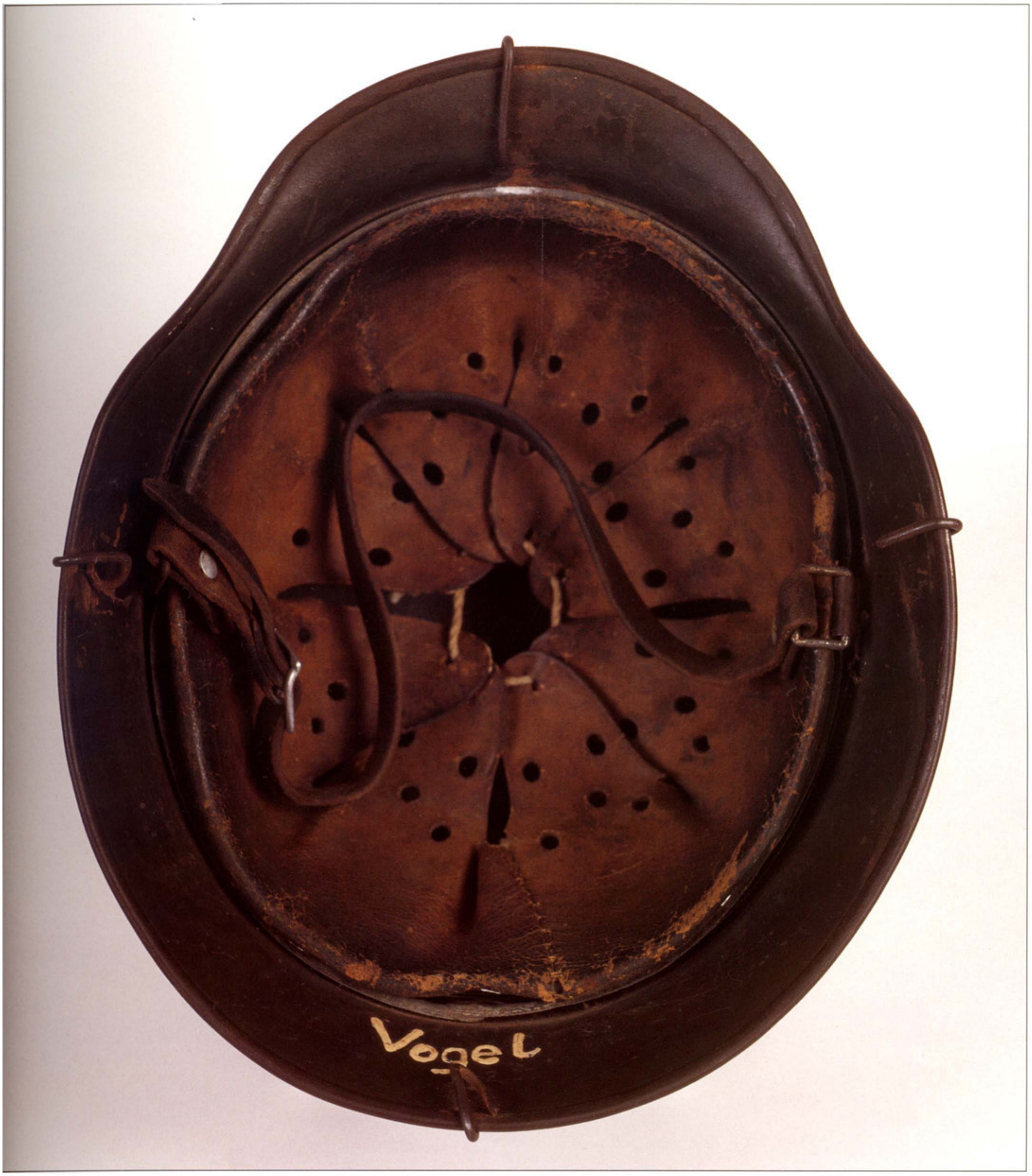








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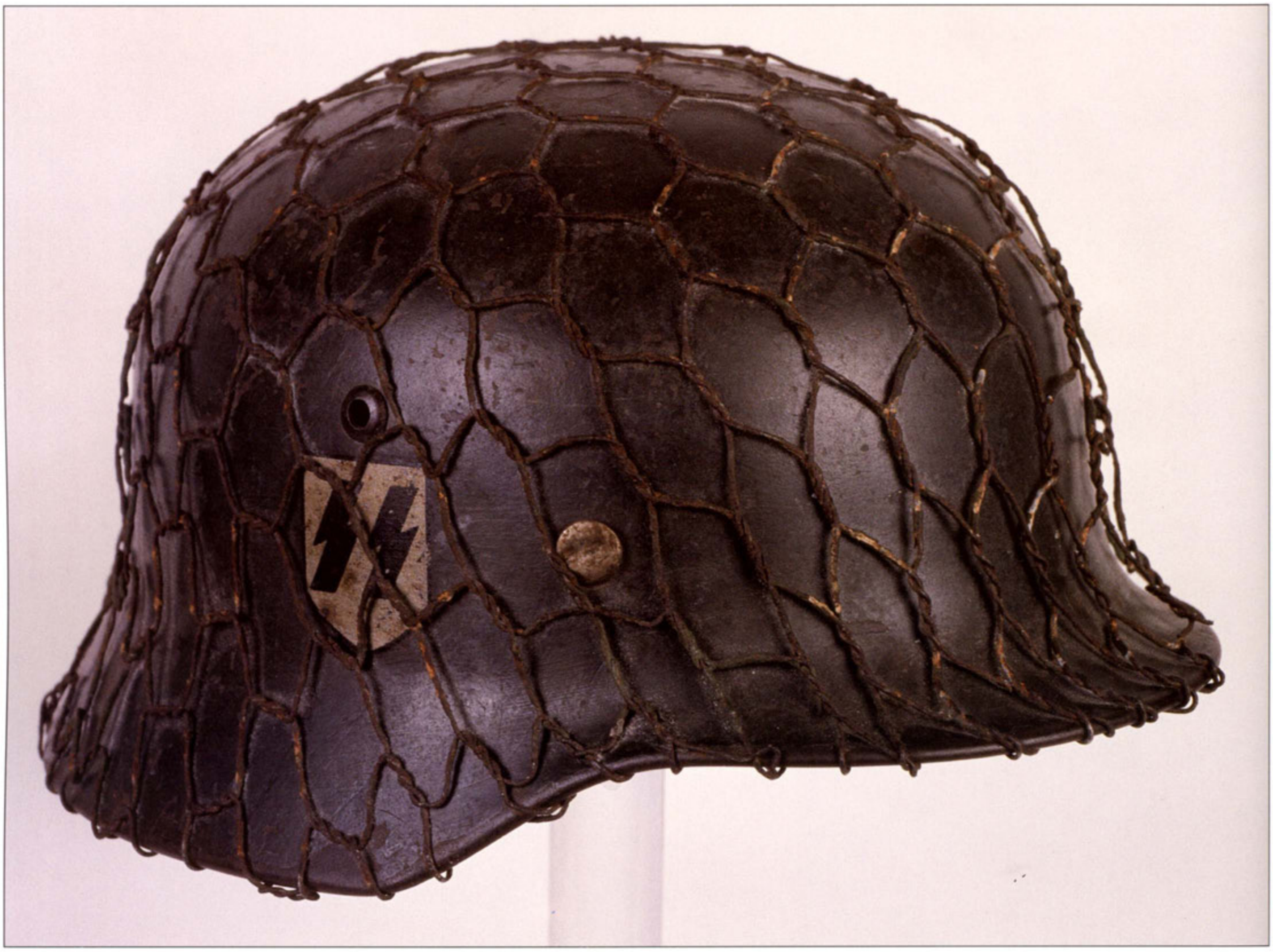
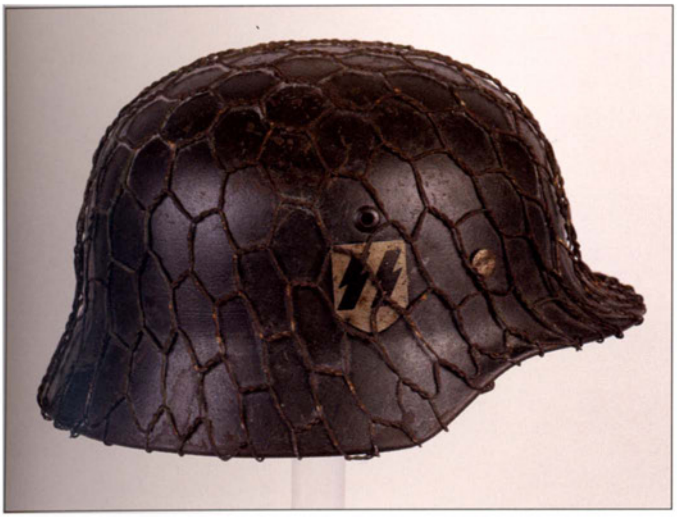
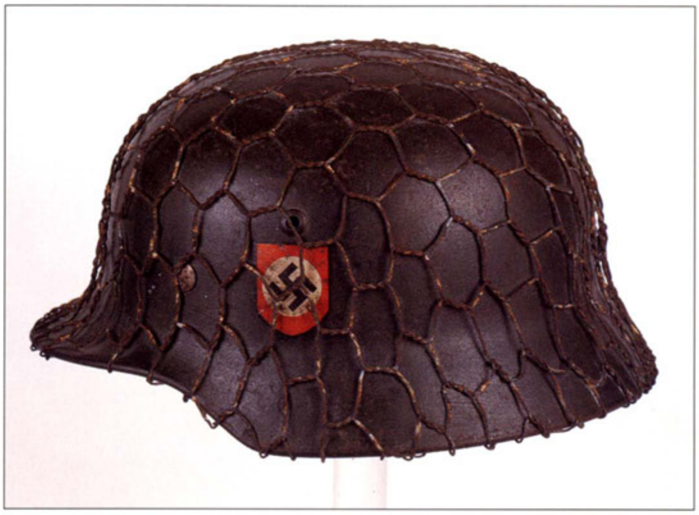
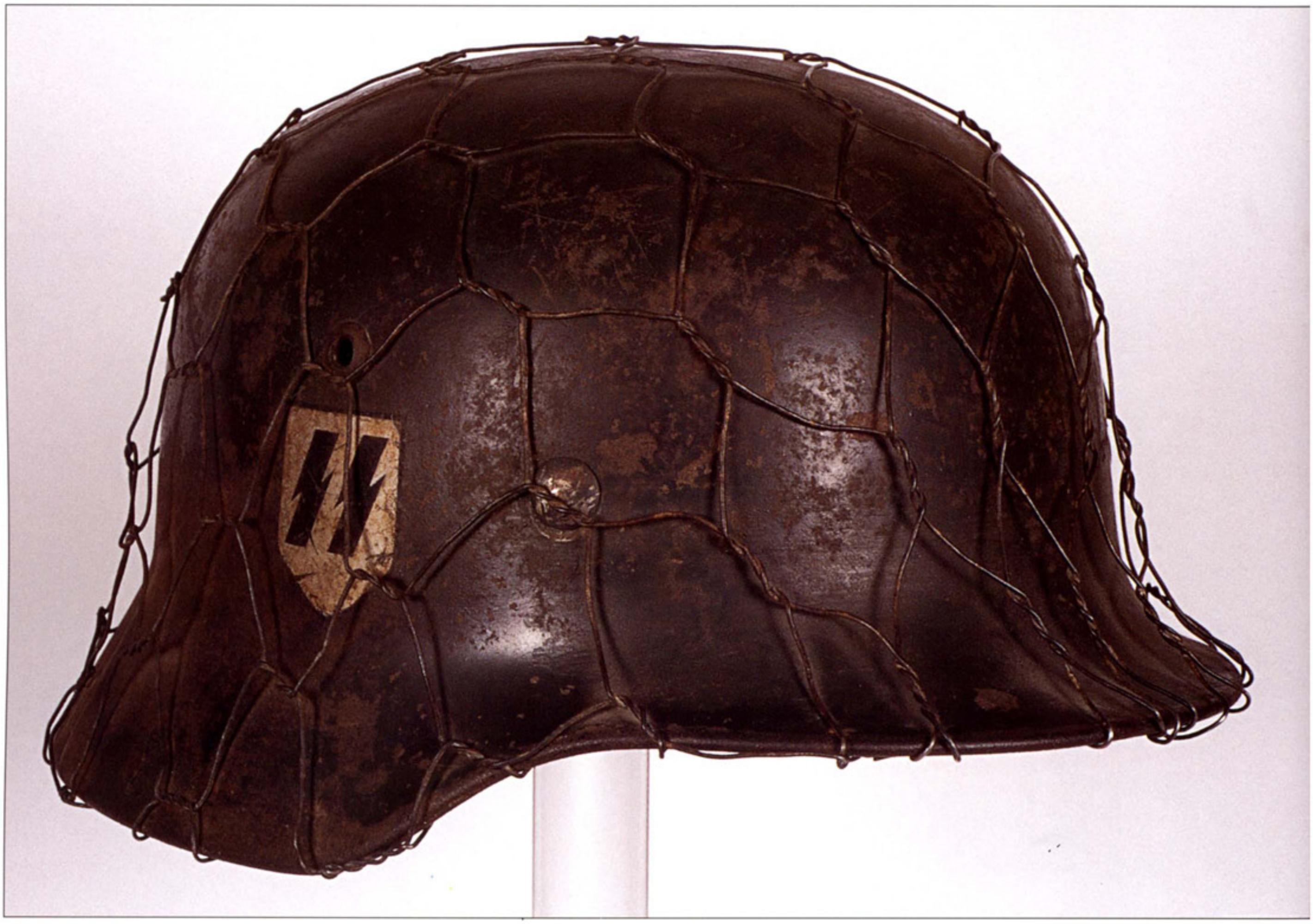


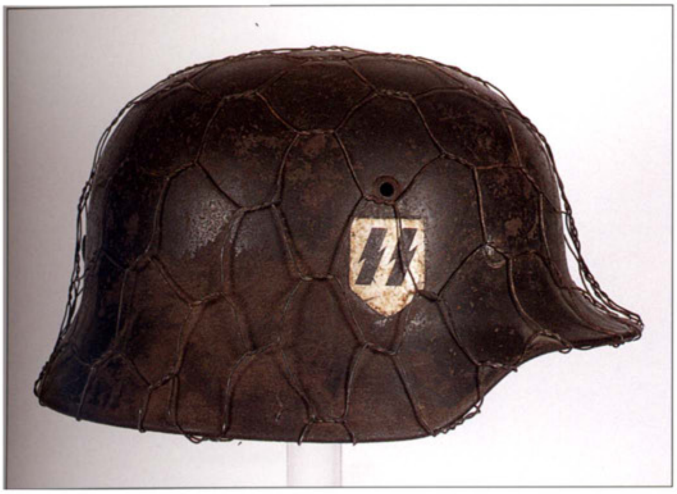
■ M35 with the state shield and first pattern SS rune insignia covered by light-gauge close-weave chicken wire. (Collection of Bill Shea)

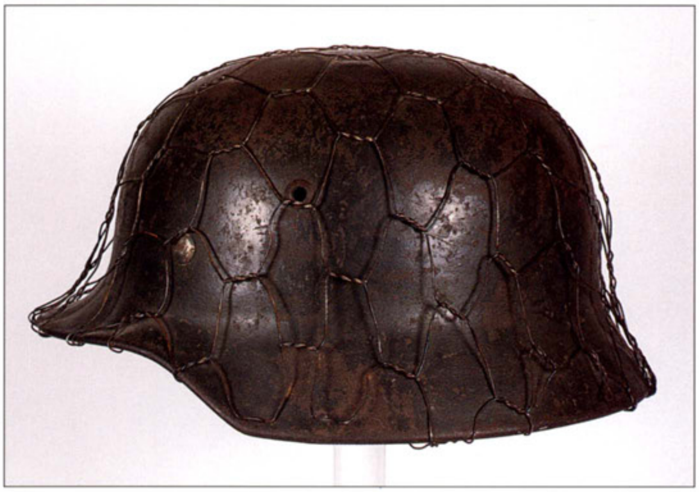


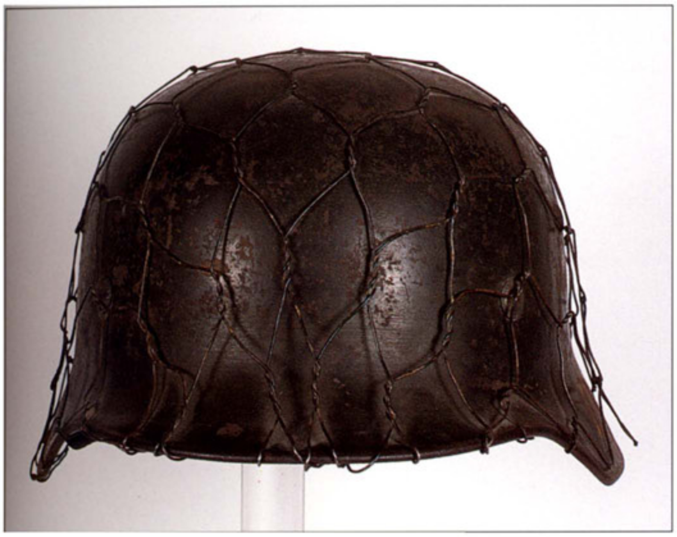


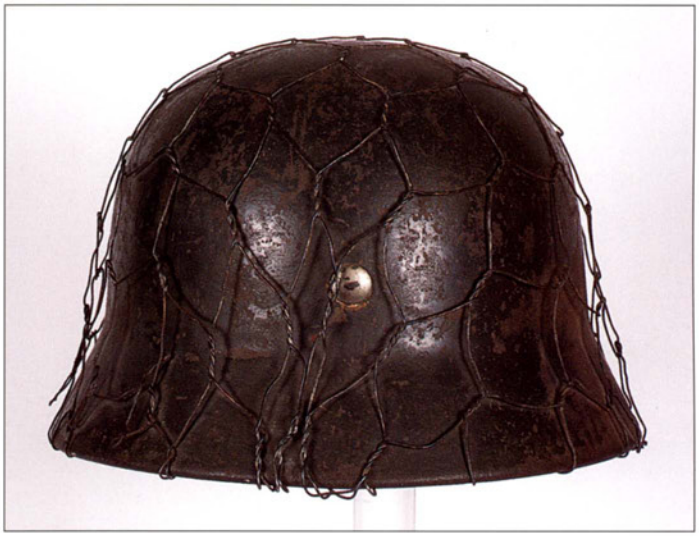


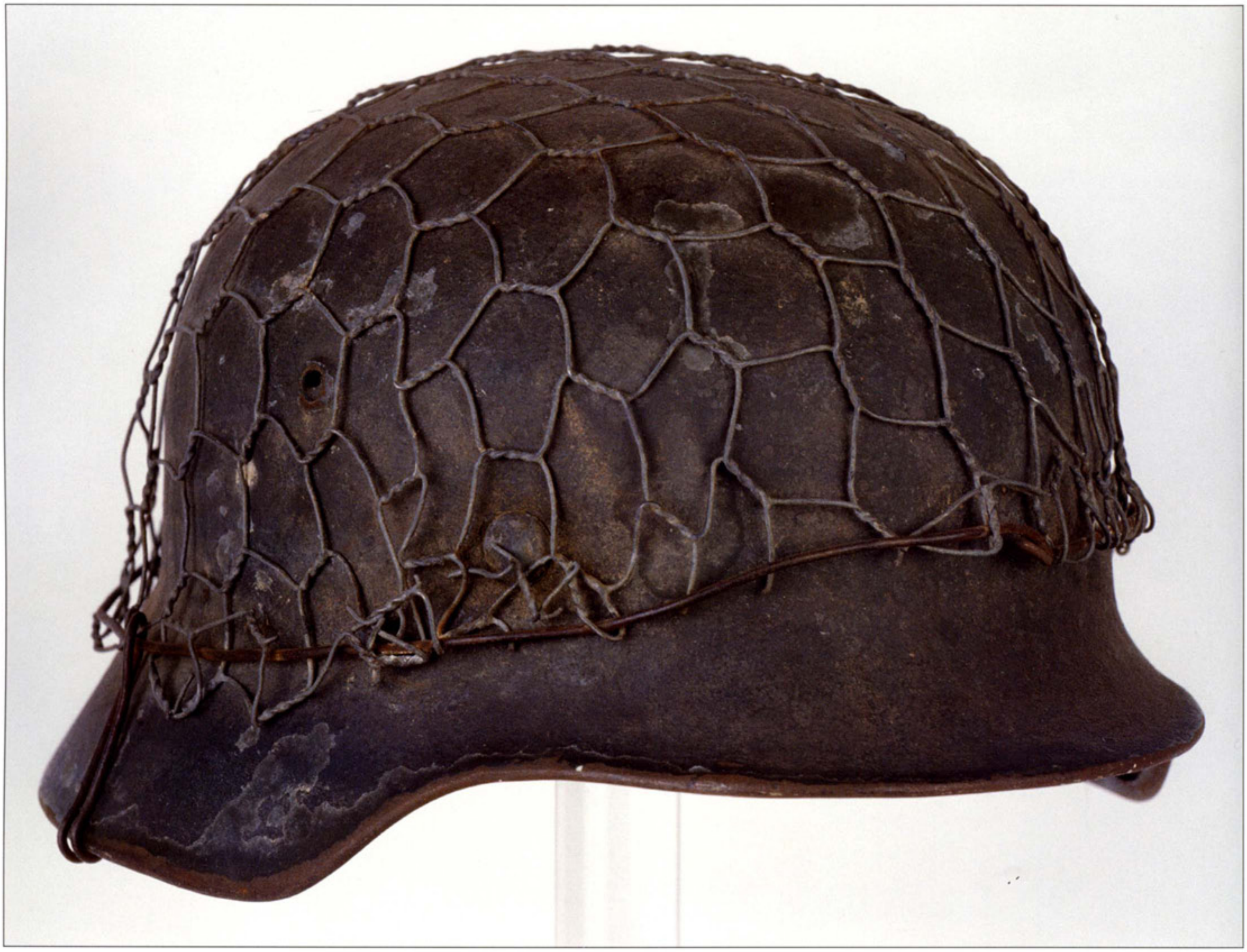
M35 with so-called Croatian SS rune insignia, the state insignia having been purposely removed, presumably to conform with the 1940 order for helmets to carry only one insignia. It is covered by light-gauge open-weave chicken wire. (Collection of the author)



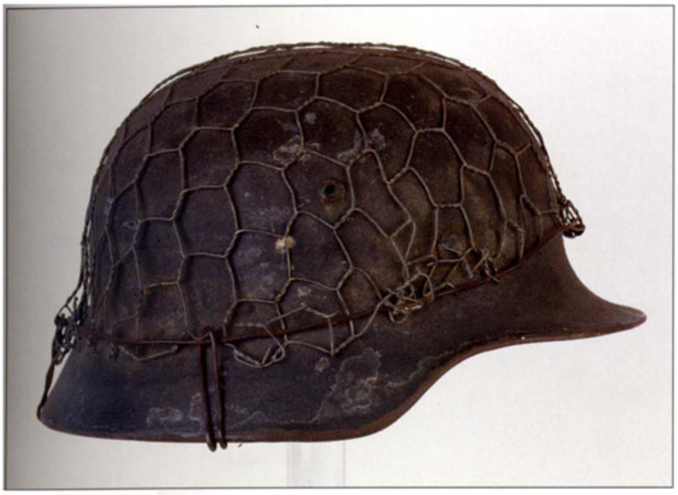


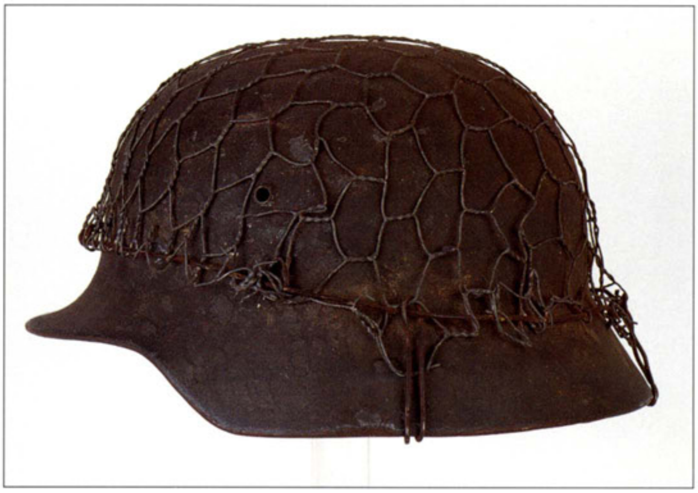


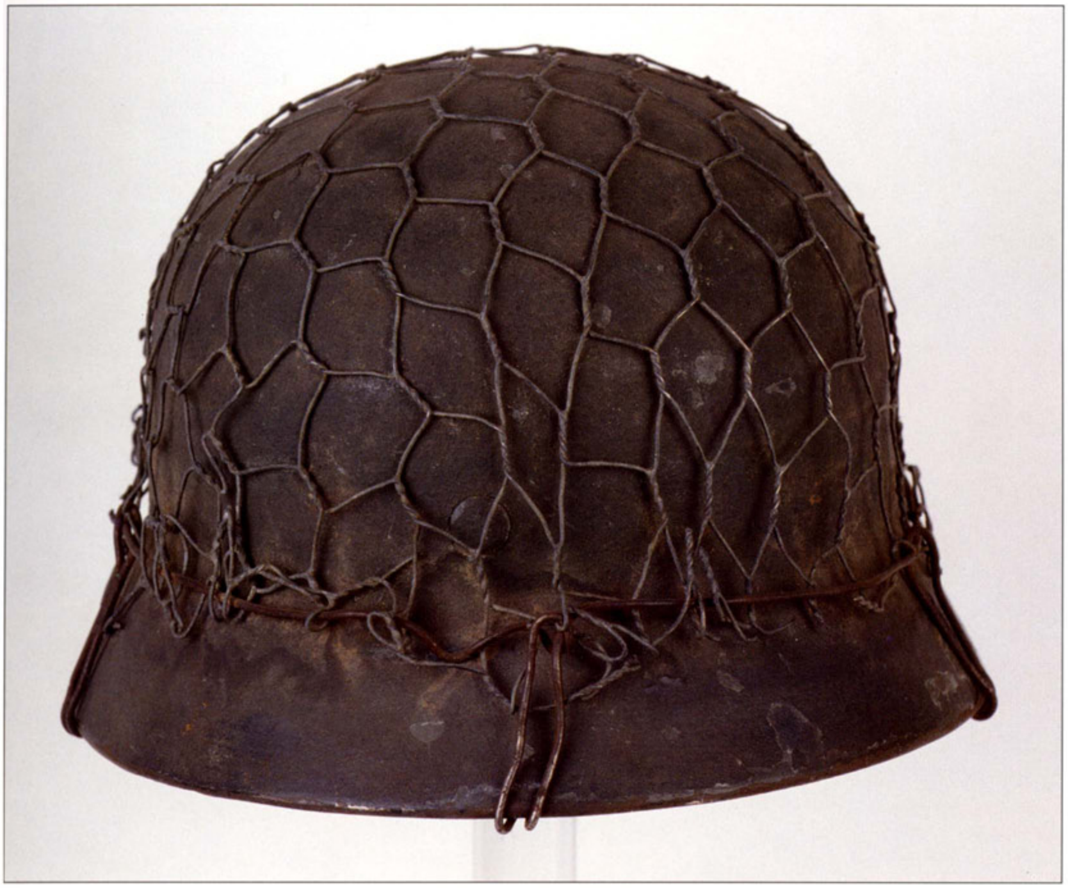


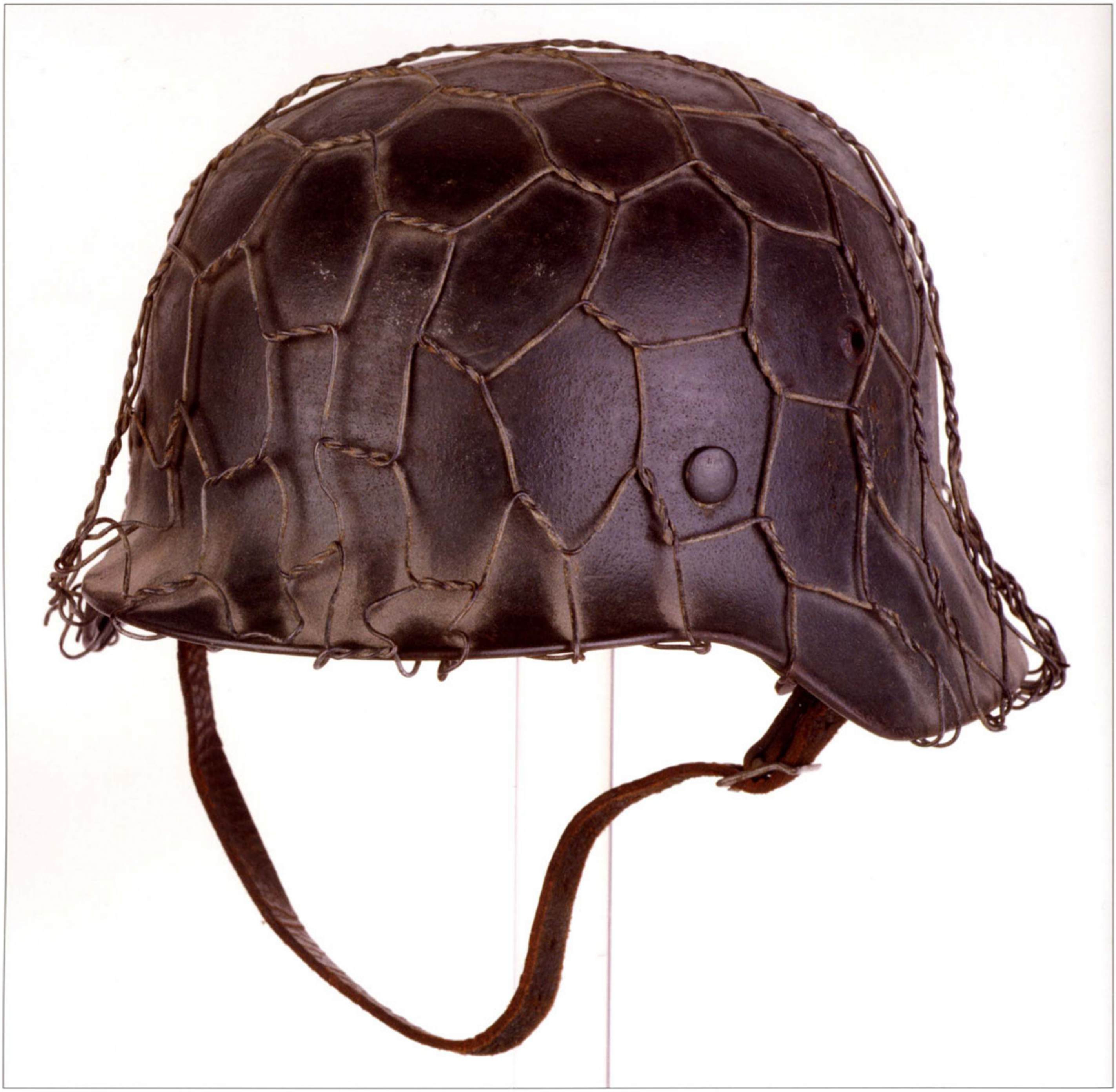


M35 with a cage of light-gauge close-weave chicken wire, held on by a band of single strand wire with three hooks to the rim. (Collection of Imperial War Museum, London)

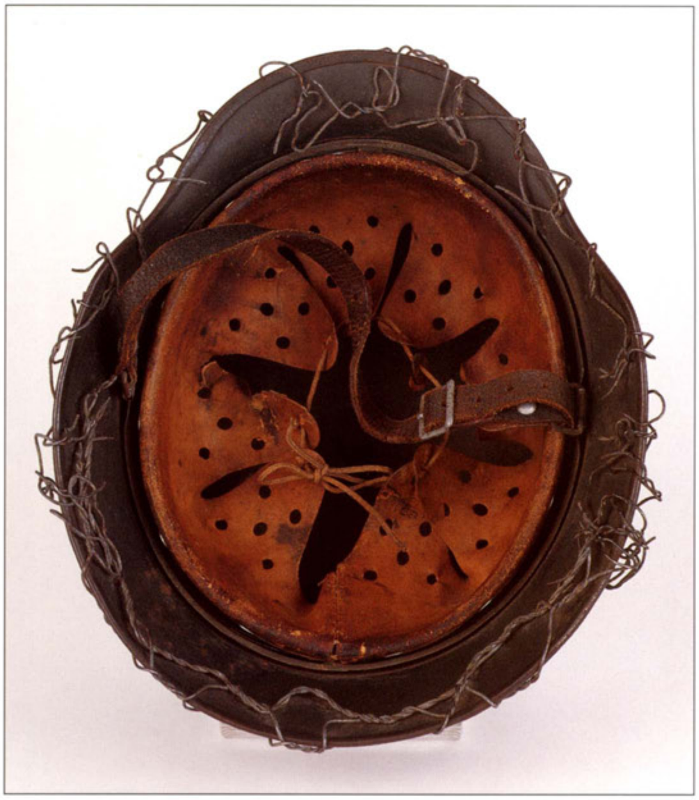


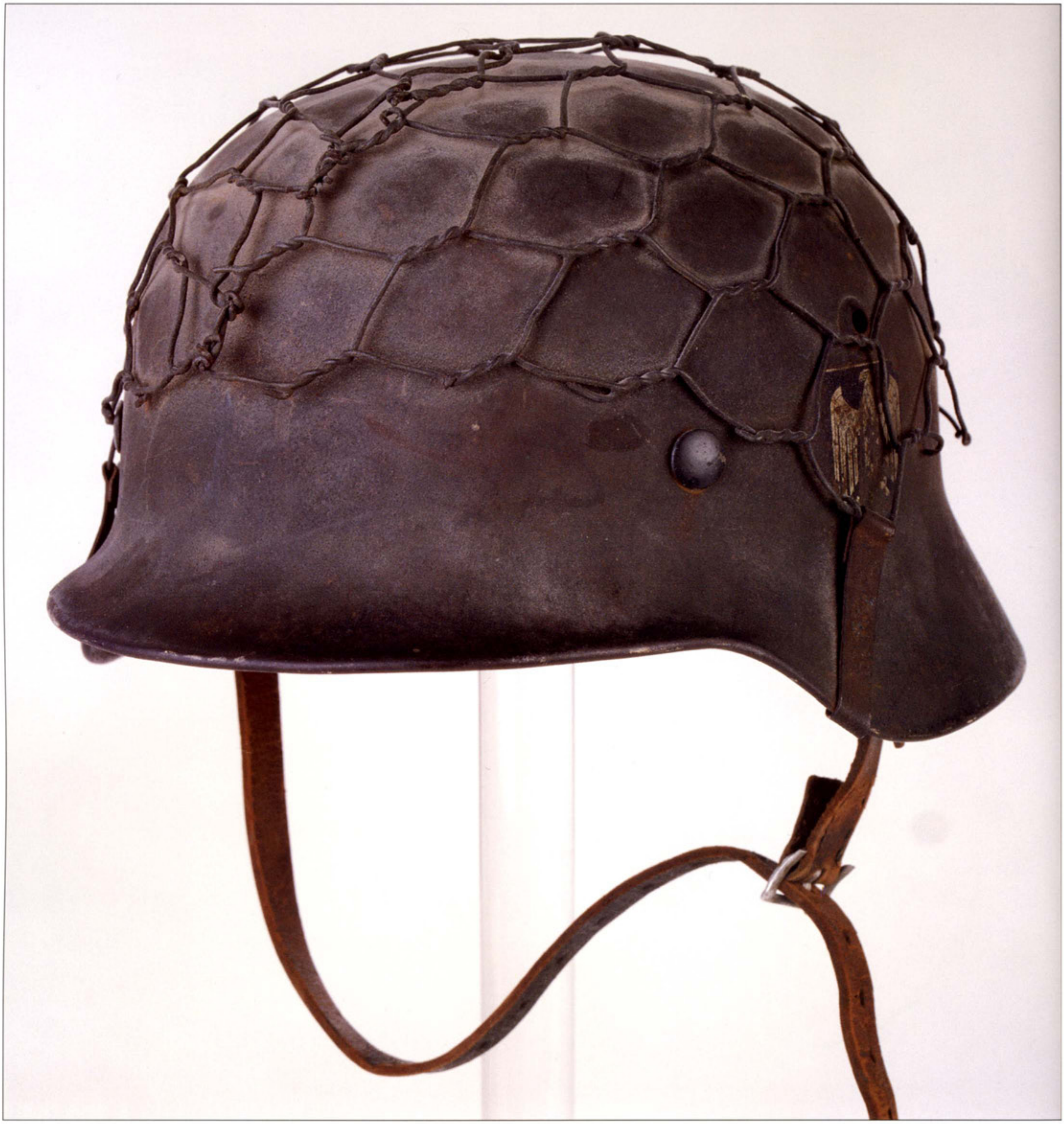




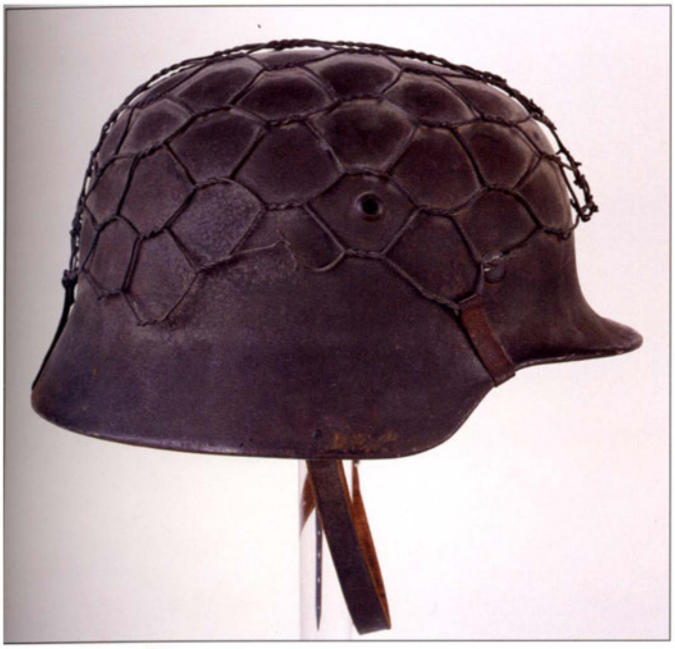


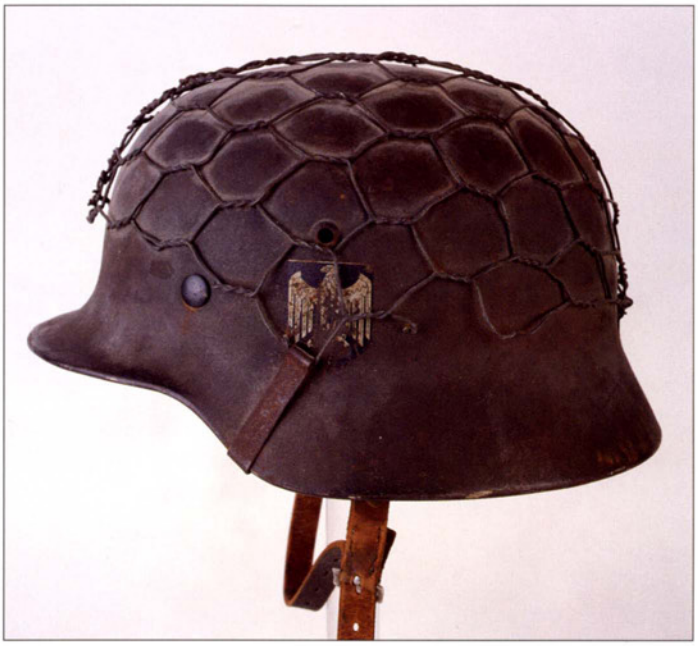
■ M35 Kriegsmarine with traces of the eagle insignia visible under the chipped paint. It is covered by light-gauge close-weave chicken wire. (Collection of Chris Jones)

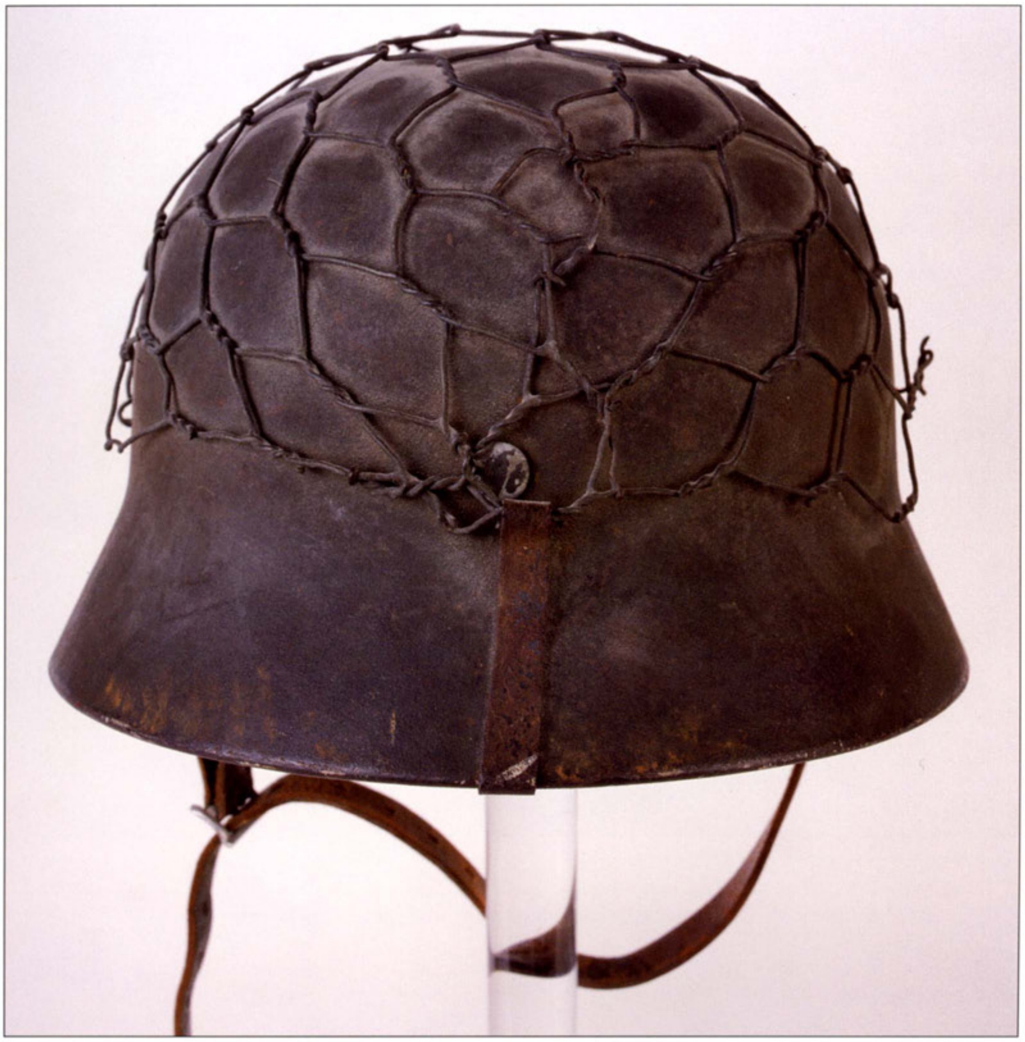


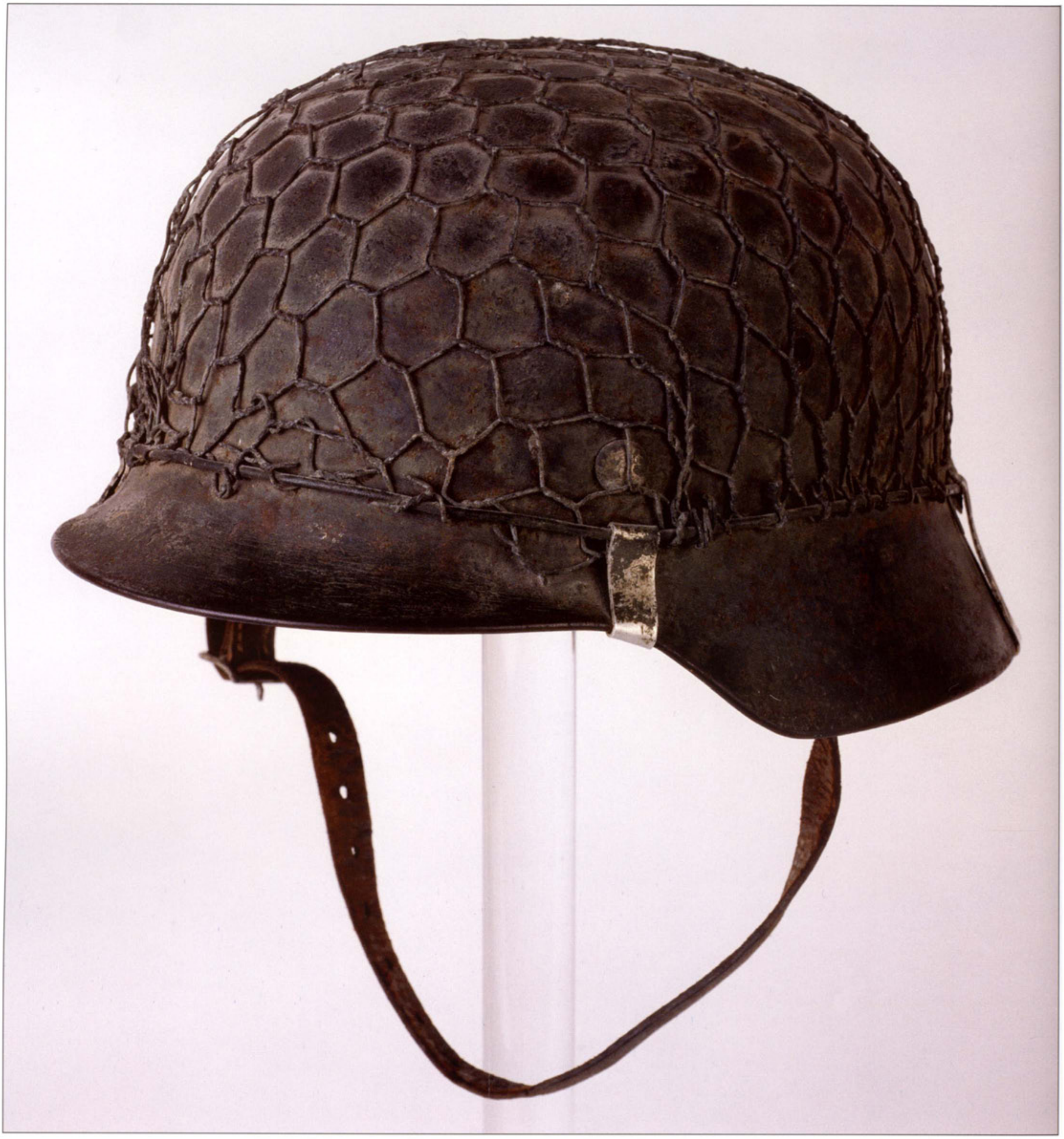


M35 Wehrmacht covered by light-gauge close-weave chicken wire attached to the rim with three flat metal hooks. (Collection of John Burnett)

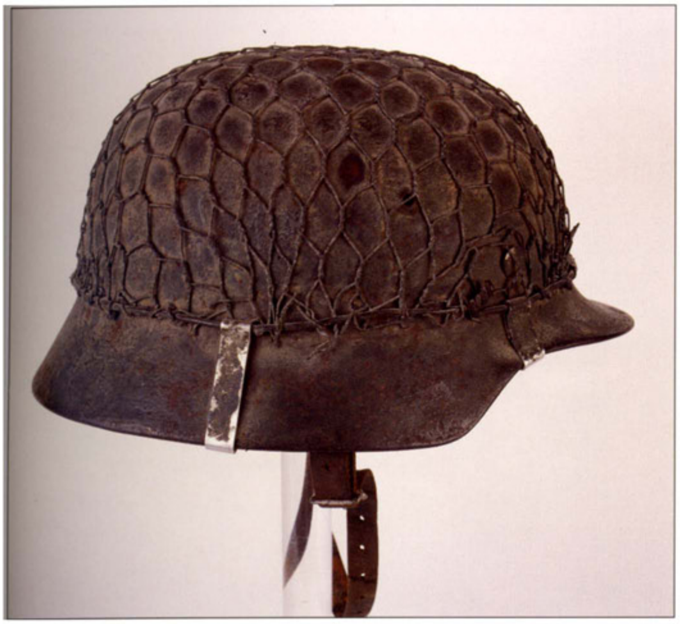


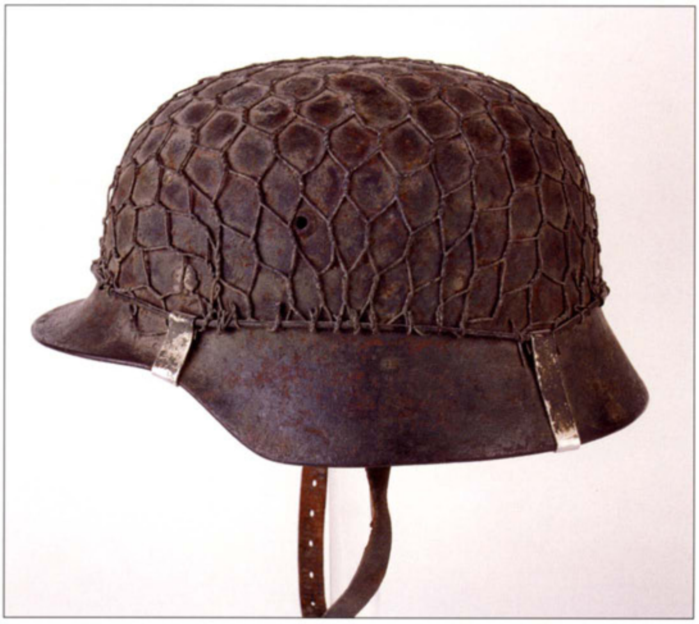


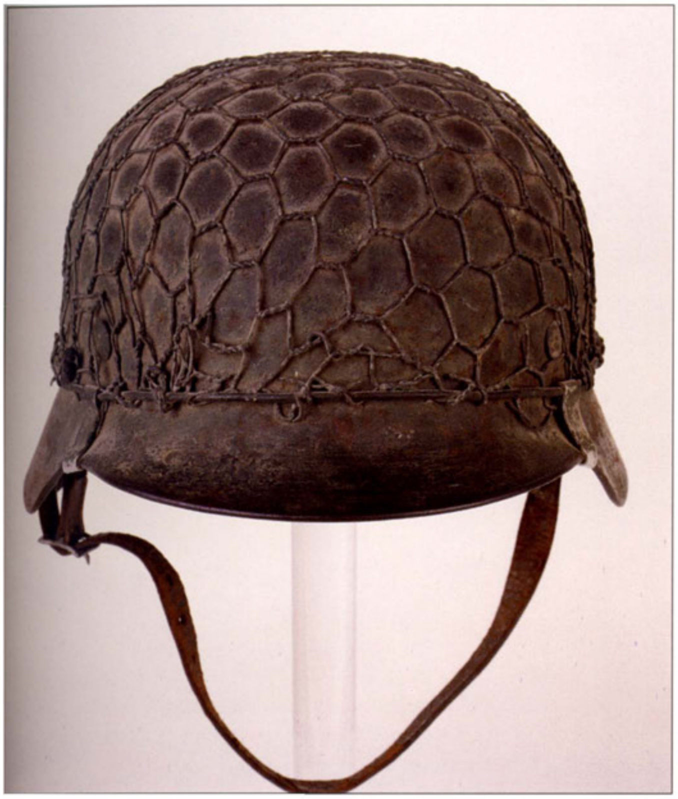


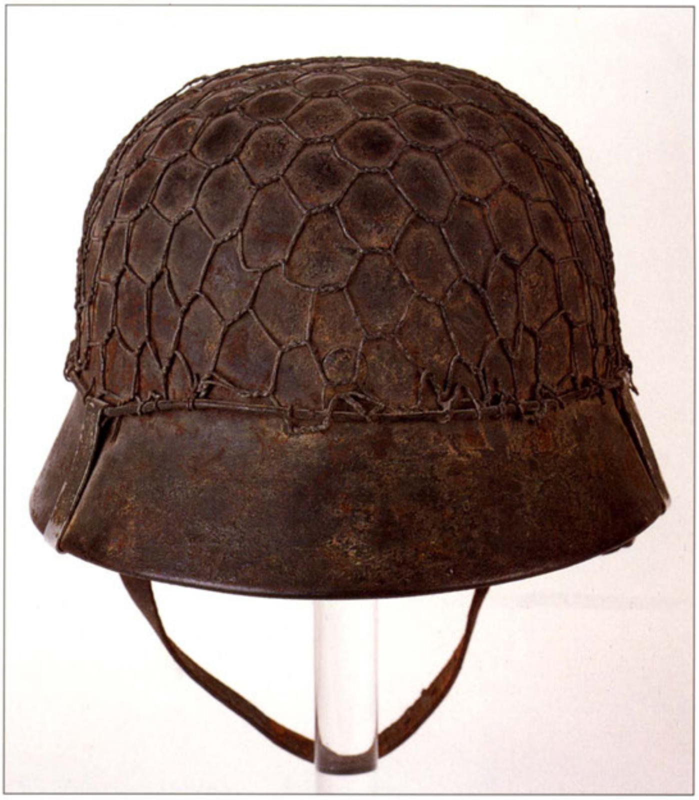


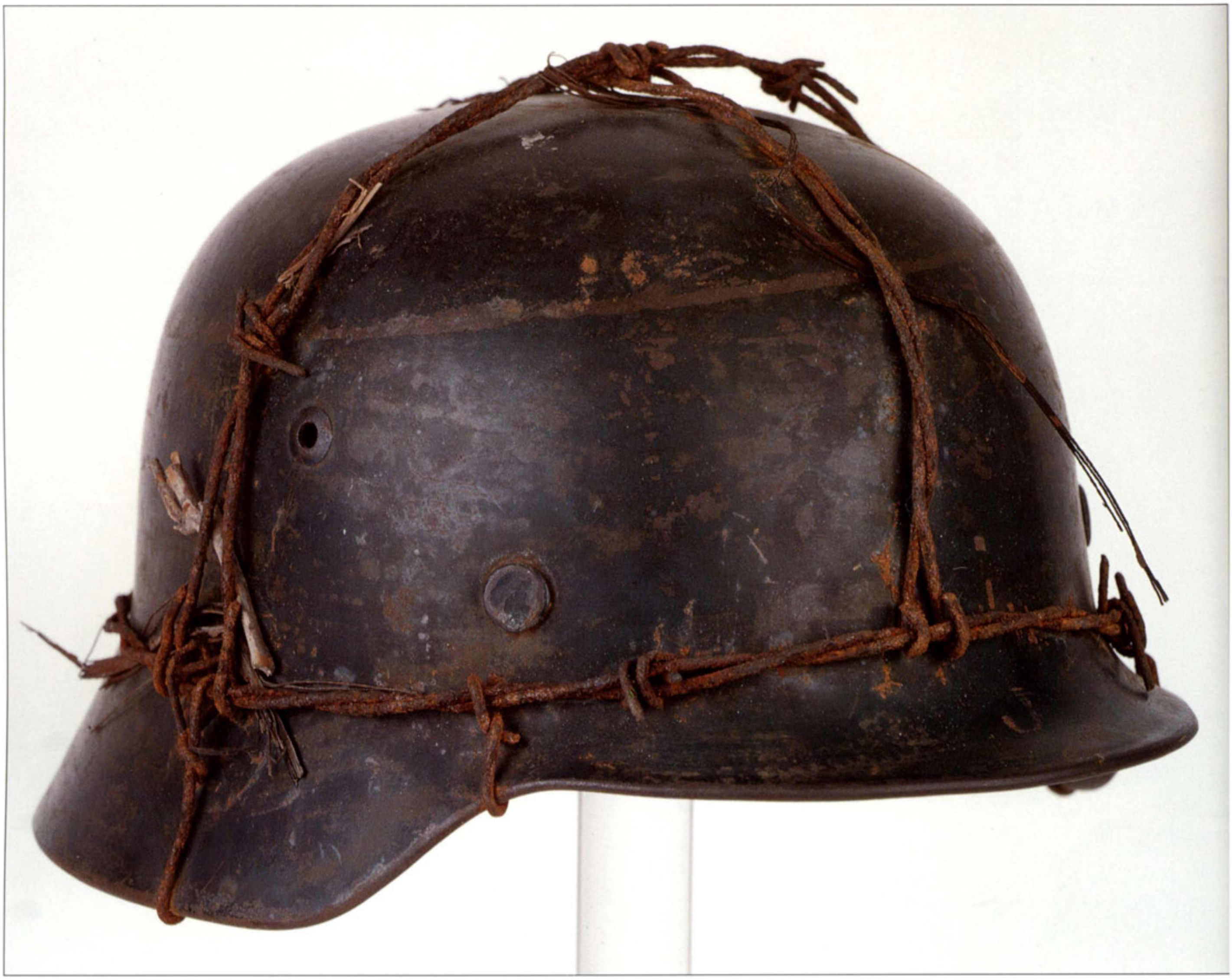
M35 with light-gauge close-weave chicken wire cage gathered with a single strand of wire and attached to the rim with three flat aluminium hooks. (Collection of John Burnett)



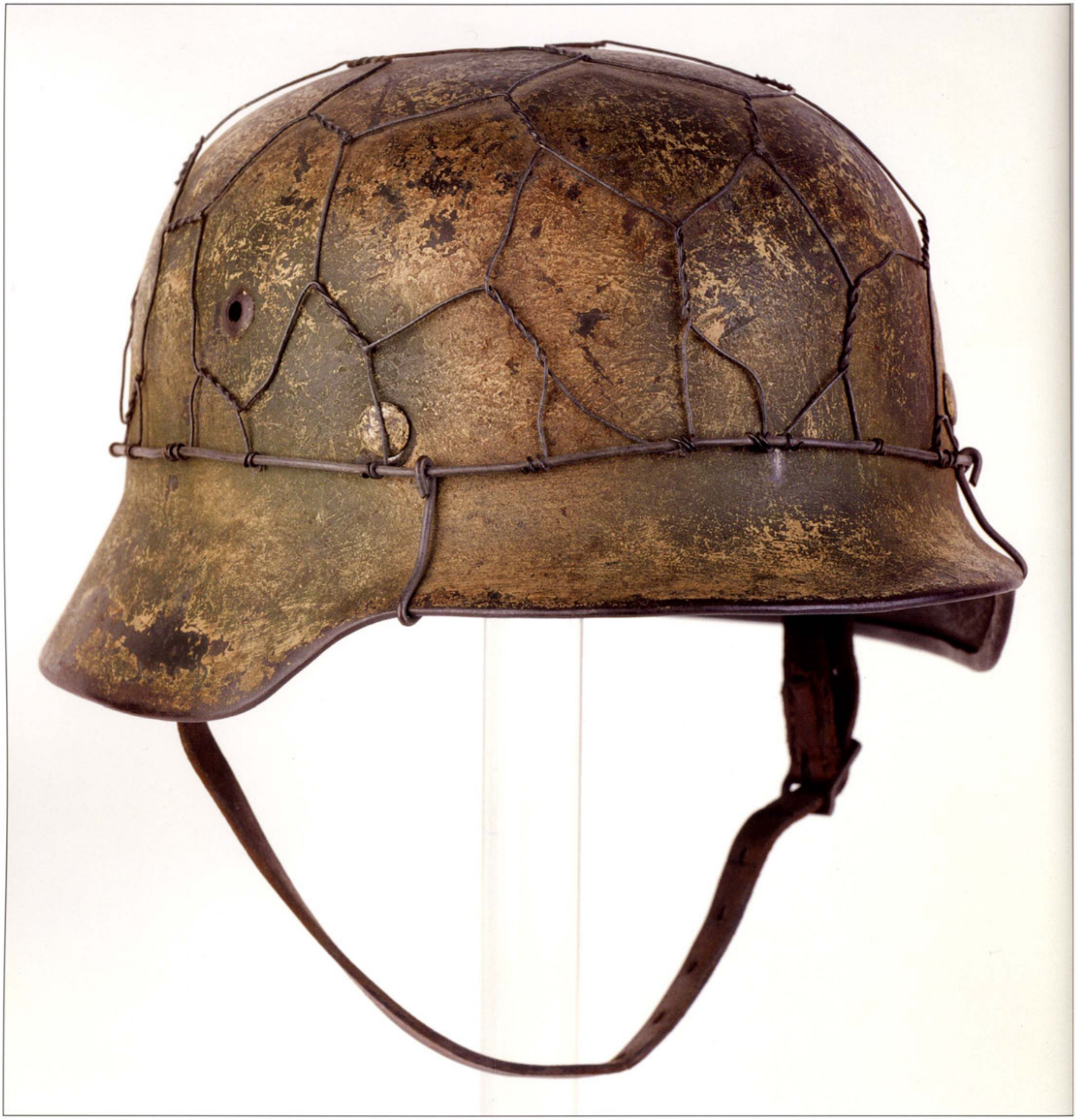




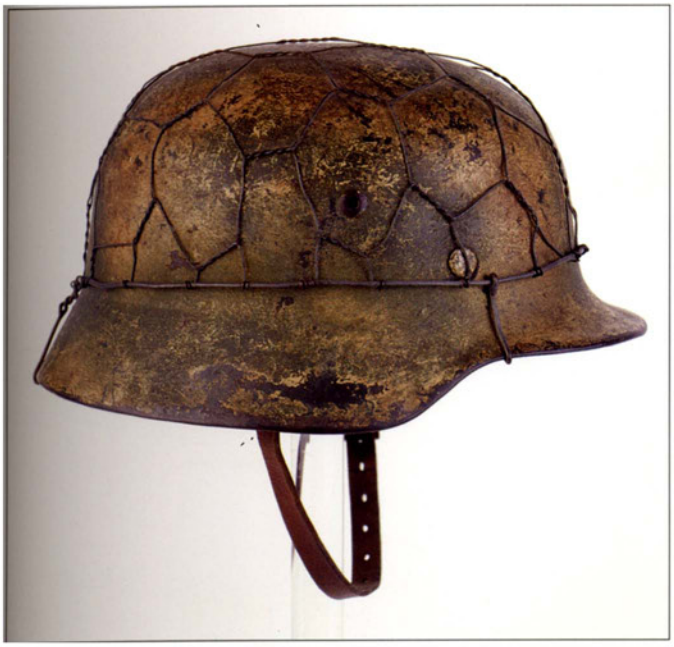


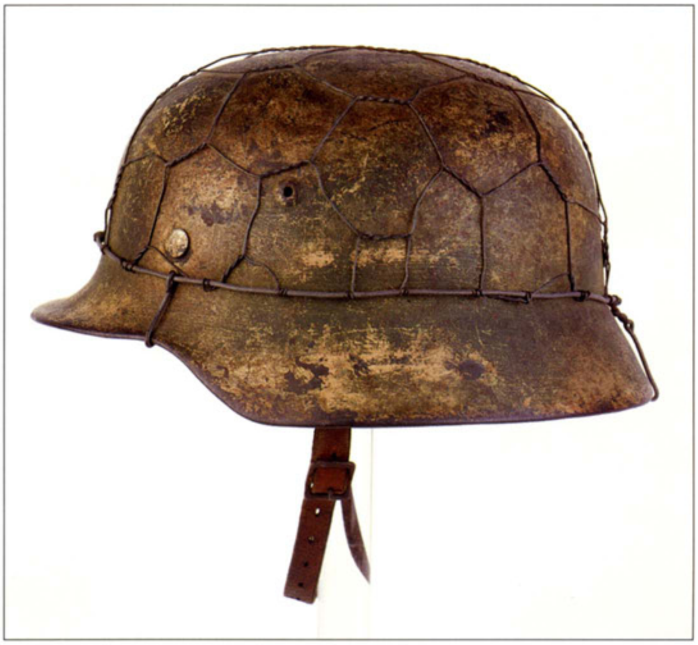


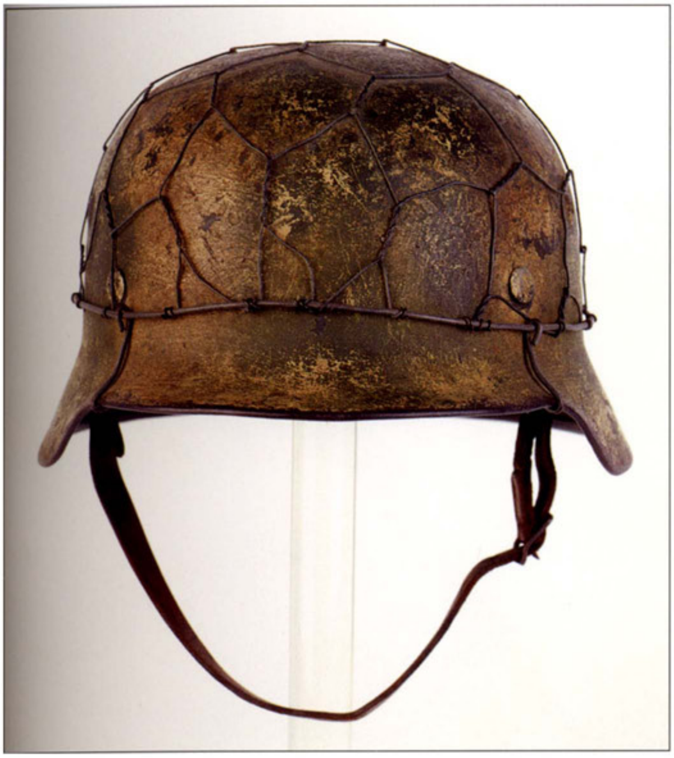
M35 with a cage of barbed wire attached to the rim with five hooks. It would appear from the marking around the top that another strand was originally in place. (Collection of the author)

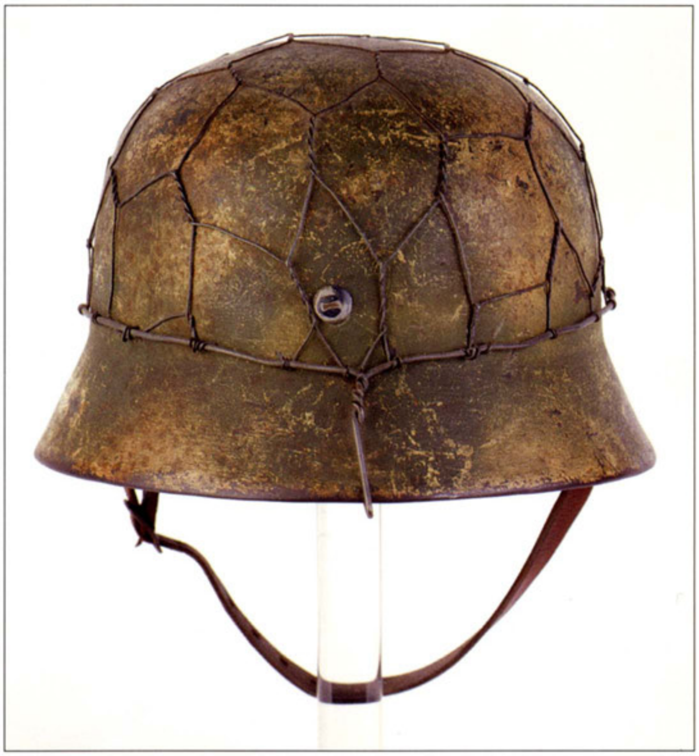


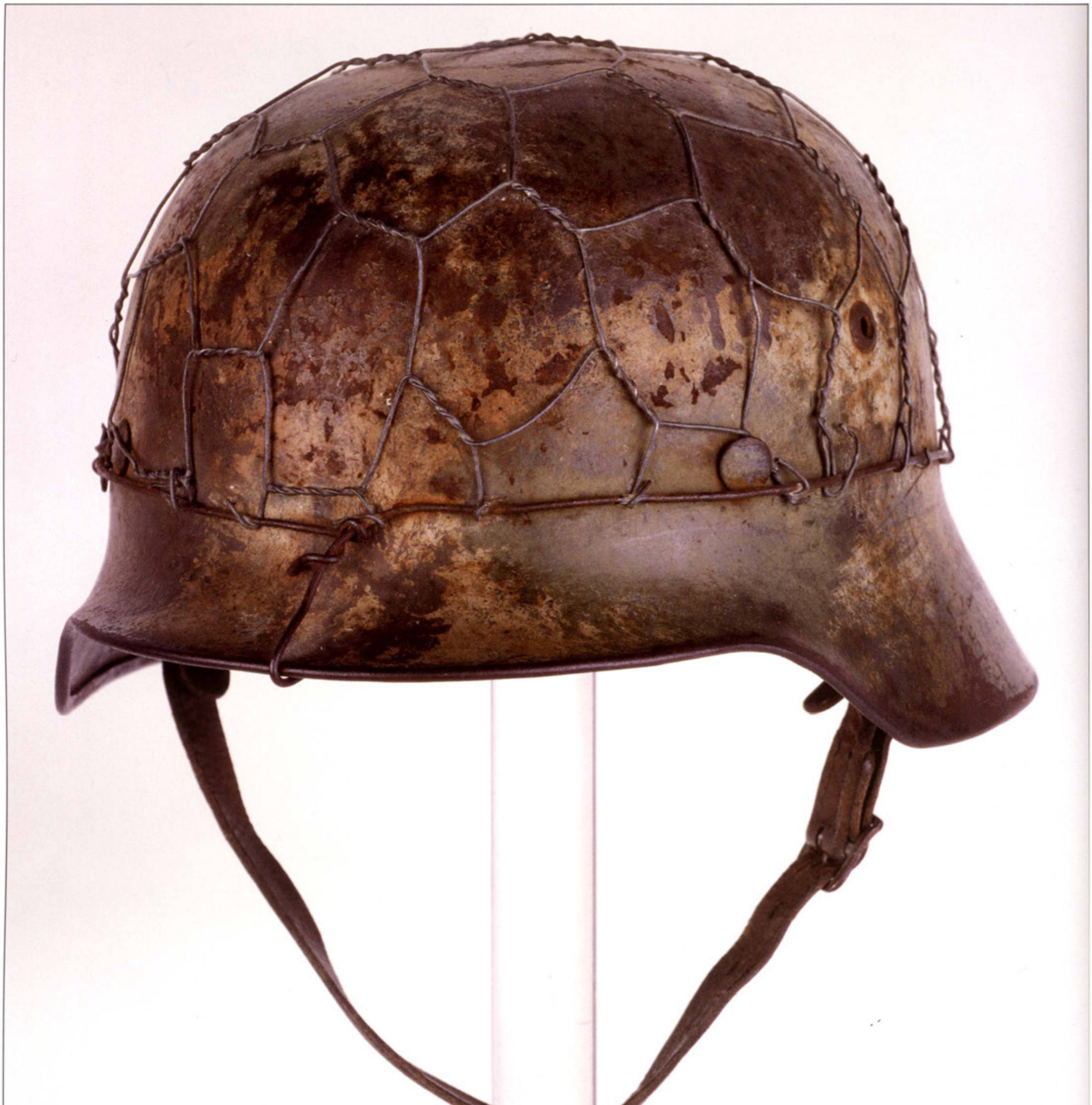
M35 with tan, green and brown camouflage with a cage of light-gauge open-weave chicken wire, gathered by a single strand of wire and attached to the rim with three hooks. (Collection of Ellwood von Seibold)



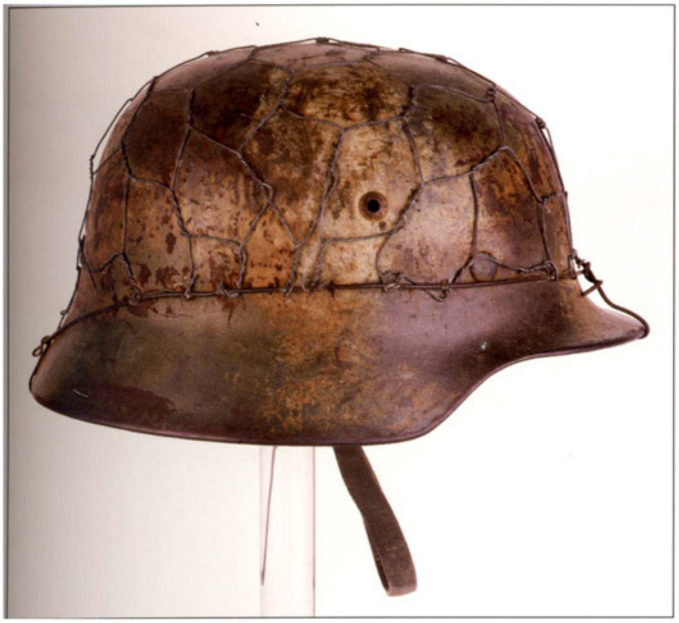


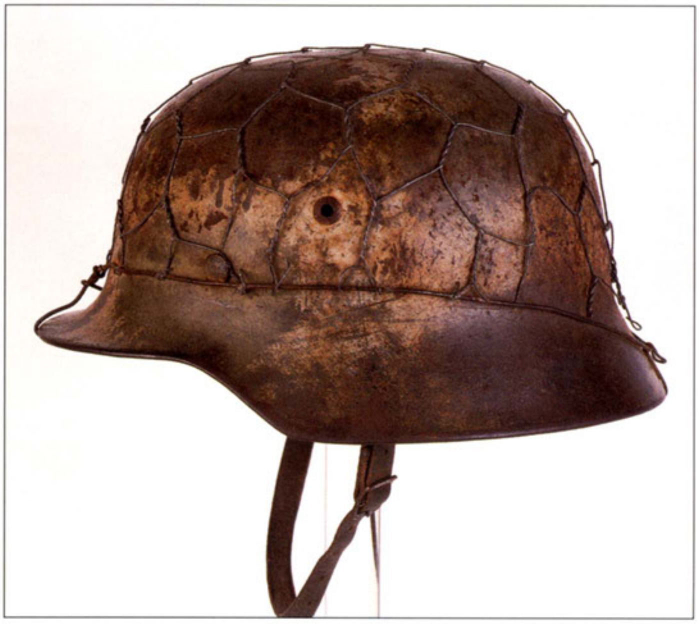


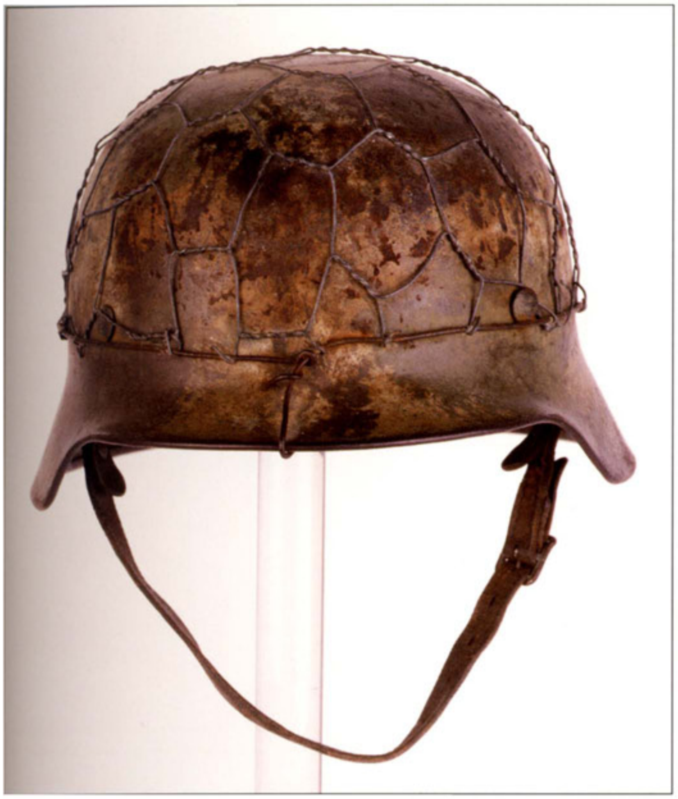


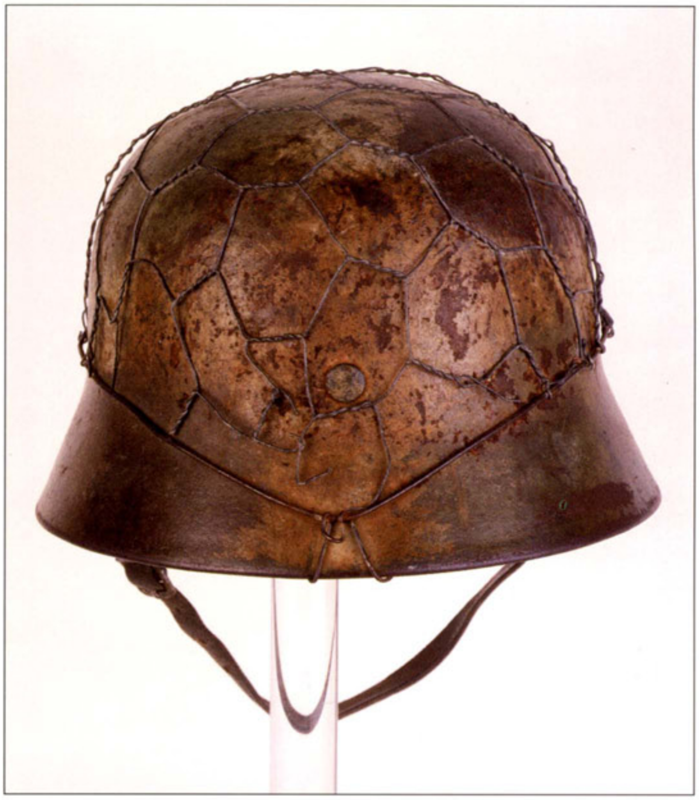


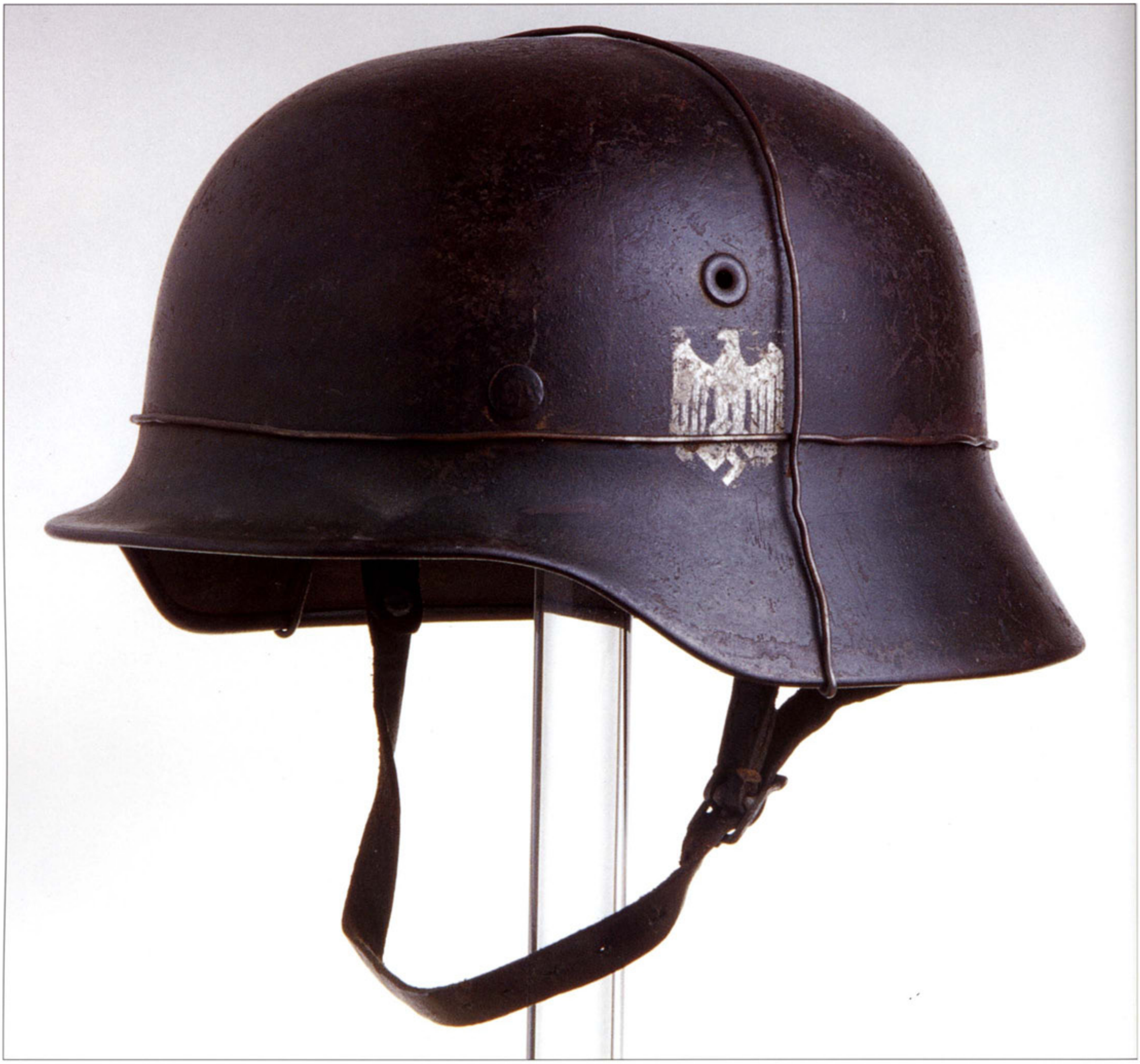
M35 with tan green and brown camouflage, and with Wehrmacht eagle insignia barely visible through the paint. It is covered by a light-gauge open-weave chicken wire cage, gathered by a single strand of wire and attached to the rim with two hooks. (Collection of Chris Jones)



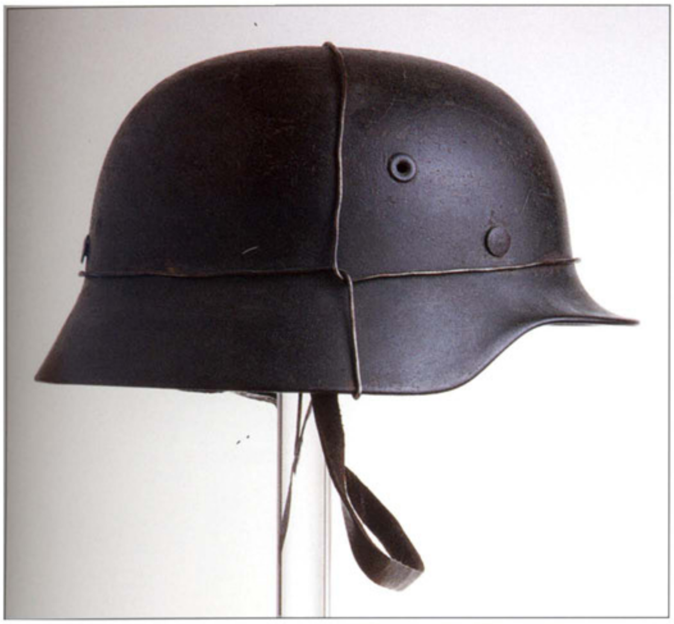


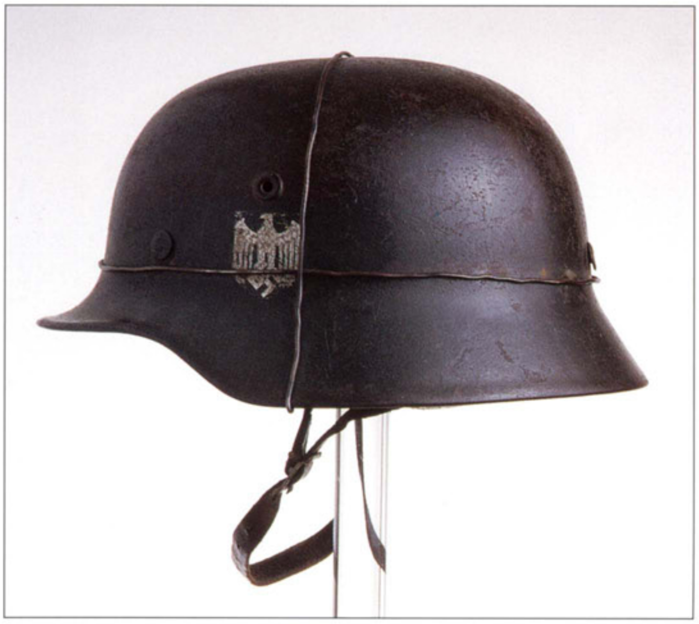


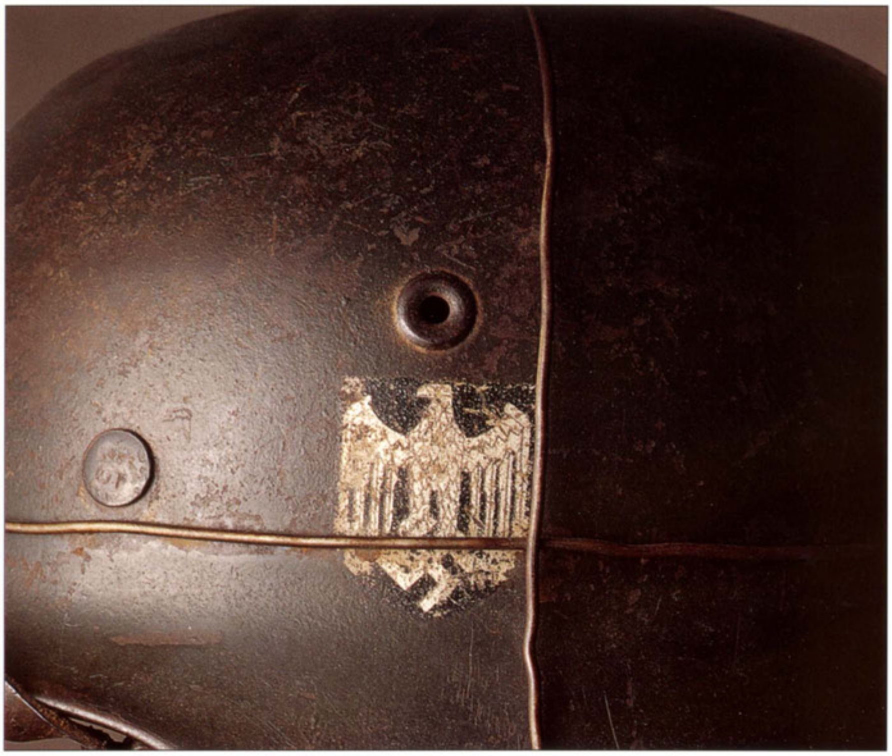


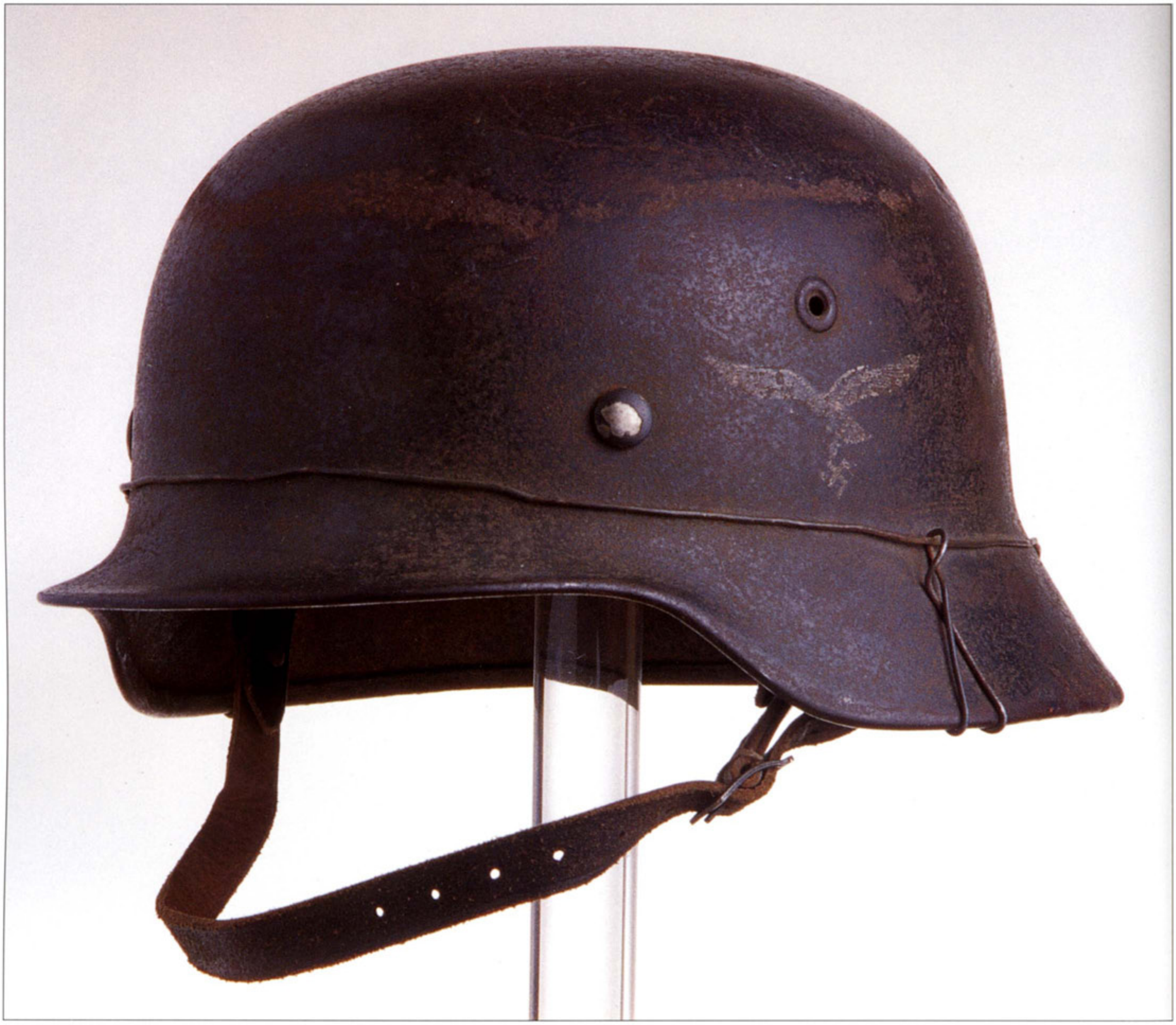


M40, with Wehrmacht eagle insignia, with a basic arrangement of a single strand of wire bent around and over it, both ends hooked under the rim. (Collection of David Asselin)

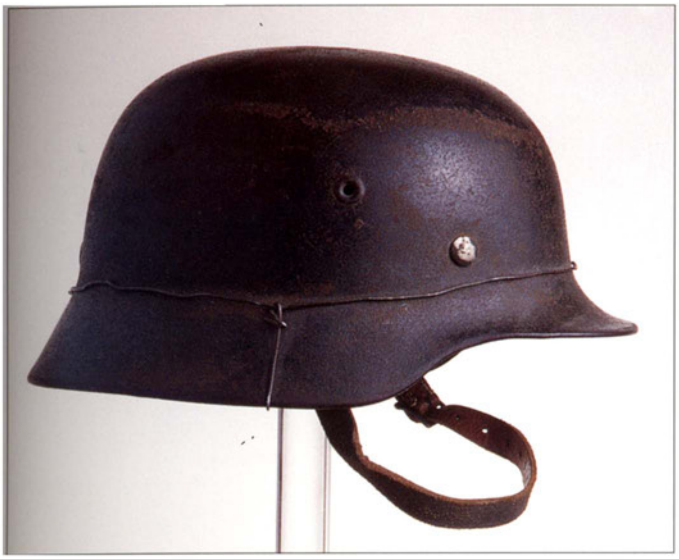


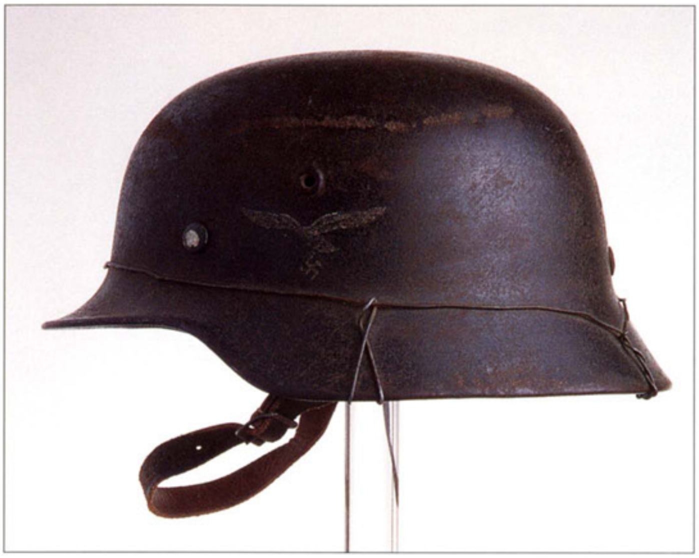


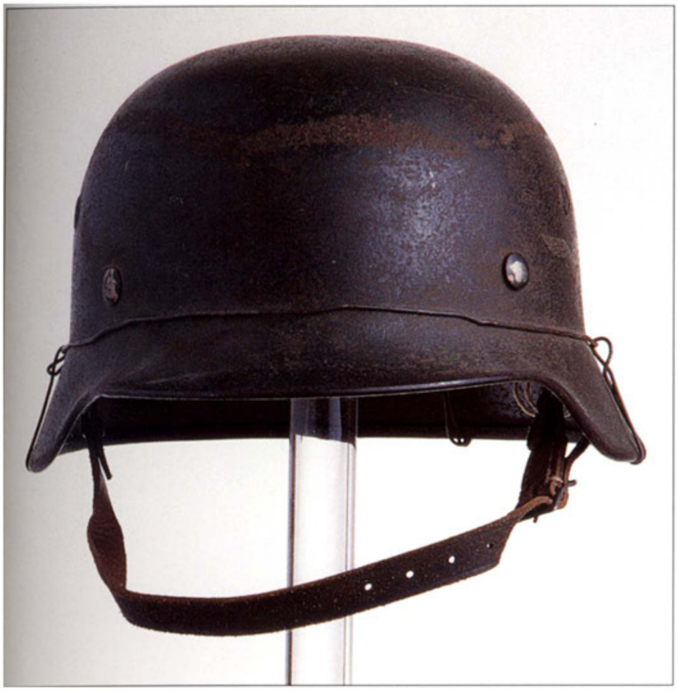


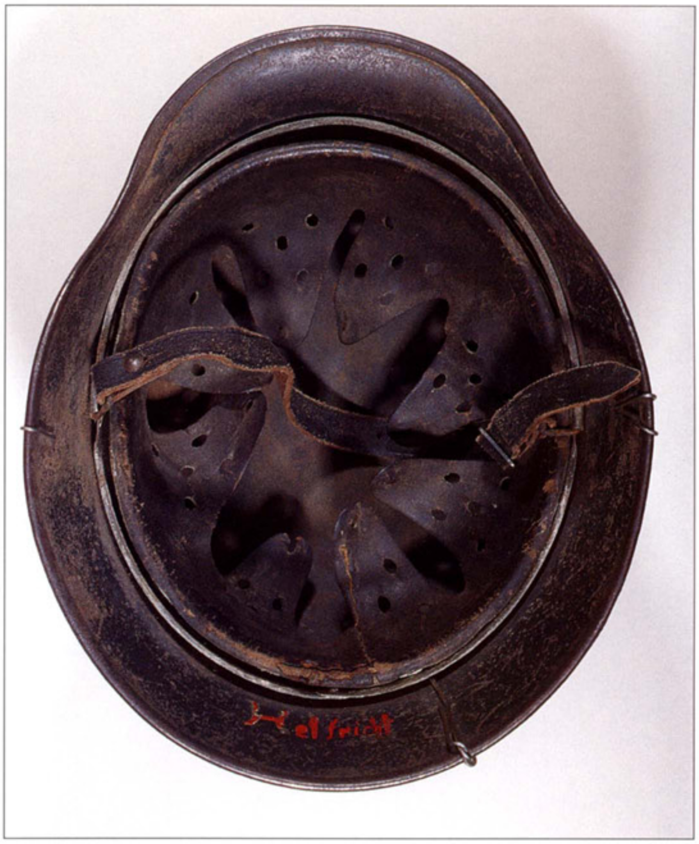


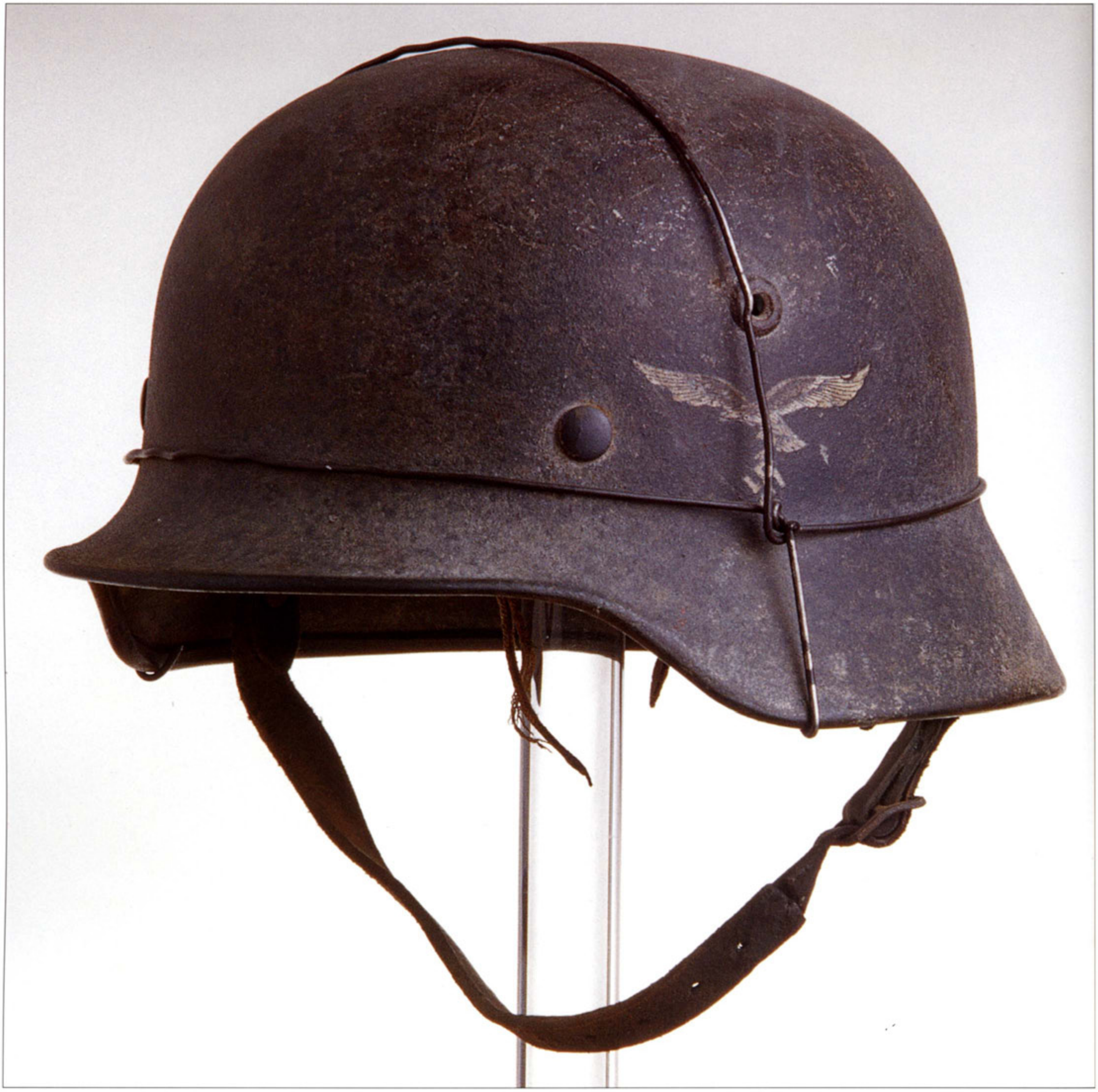
M40, with Luftwaffe second pattern eagle insignia, with a single strand of wire around the skull and attached to the rim by three hooks. (Collection of David Asselin)



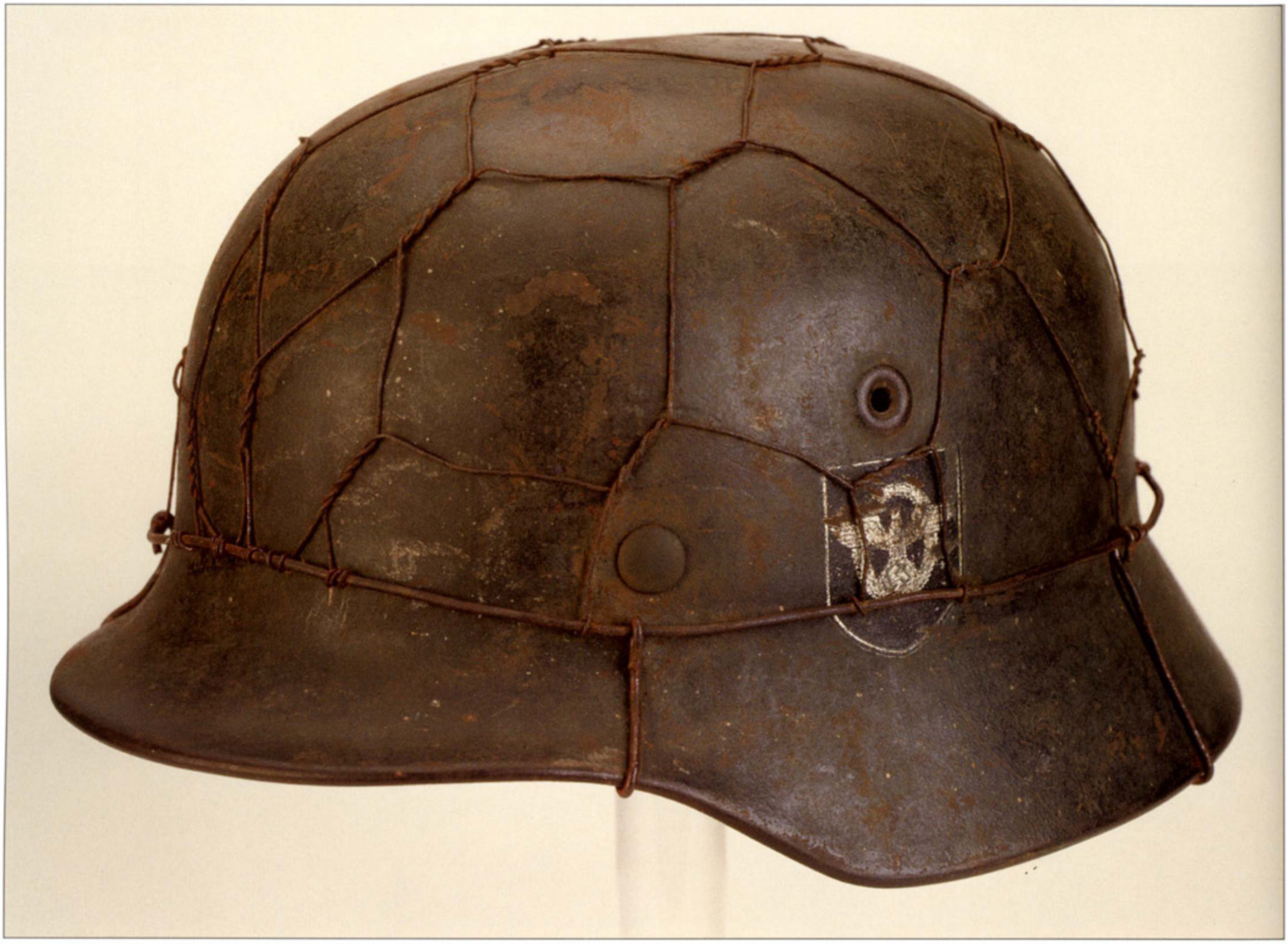




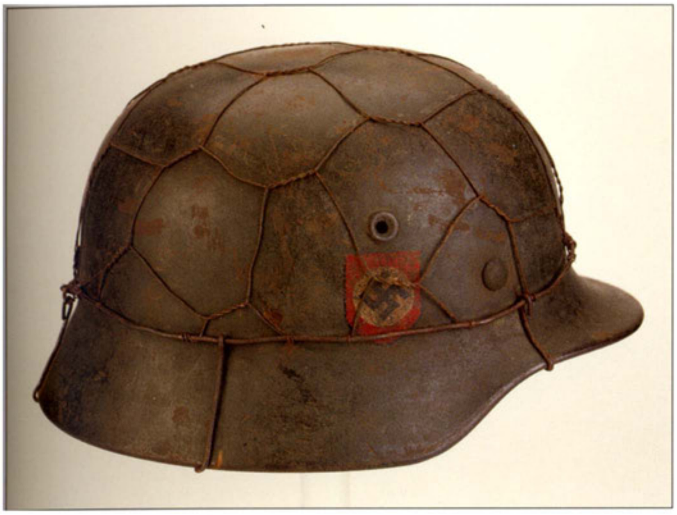

Helfricht

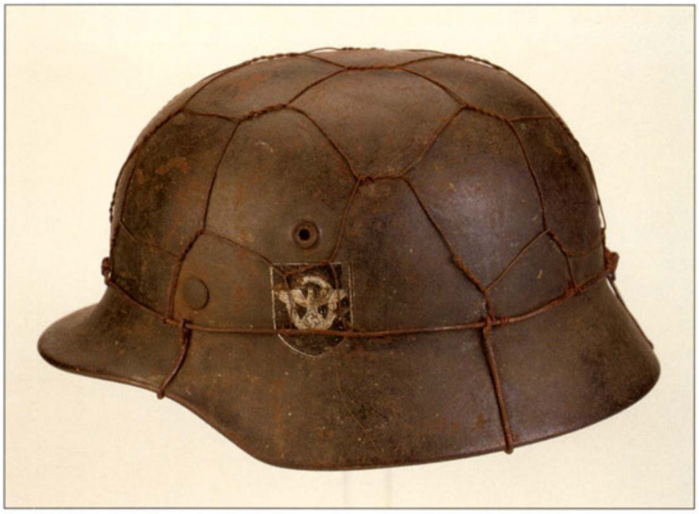


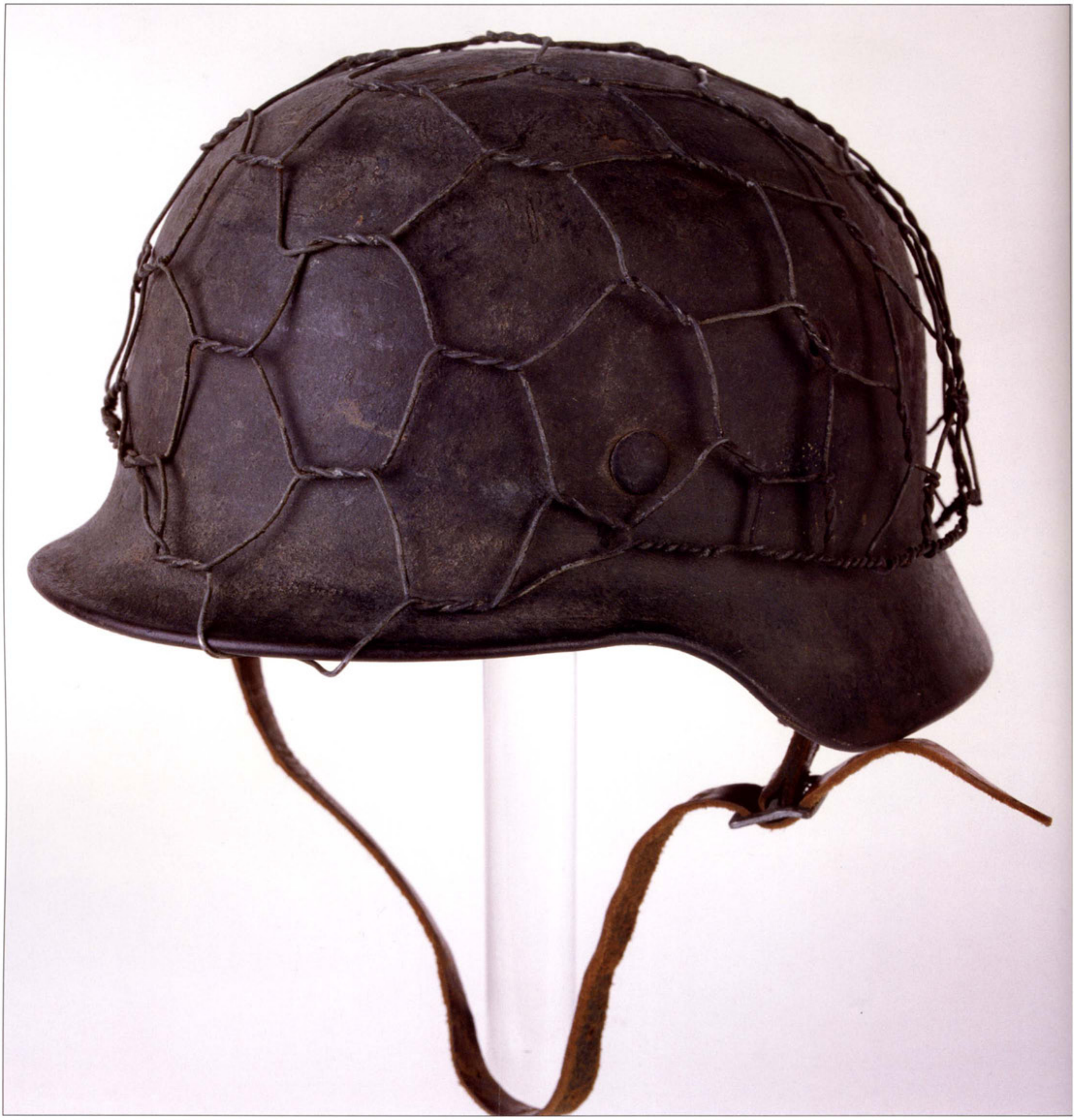
M40, with Luftwaffe second pattern eagle insignia, with a basic arrangement of a single strand of wire bent around and over it, both ends hooked under the rim. (Collection of David Asselin)



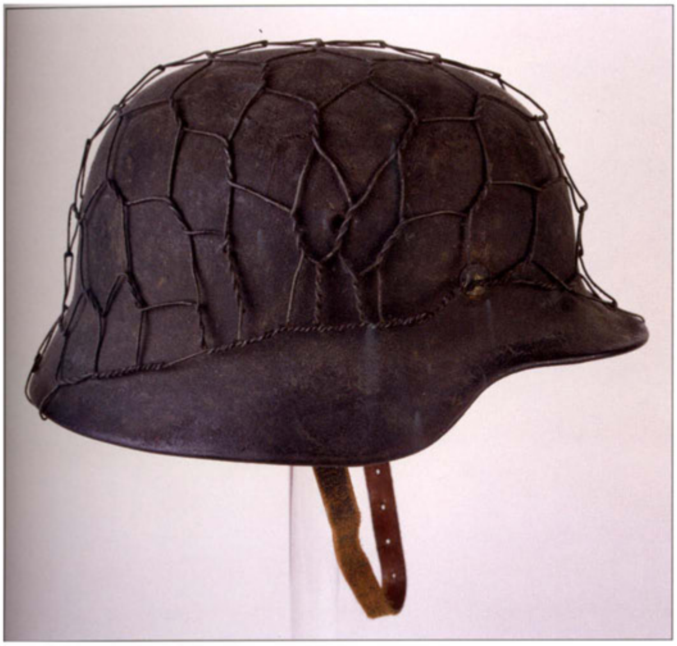
M40, with state shield and Feldpolizei eagle insignia, with a light-gauge open-weave chicken wire cage gathered around the skull and held on to the rim by five hooks. (Collection of Brian Maederer - Military Collectibles)

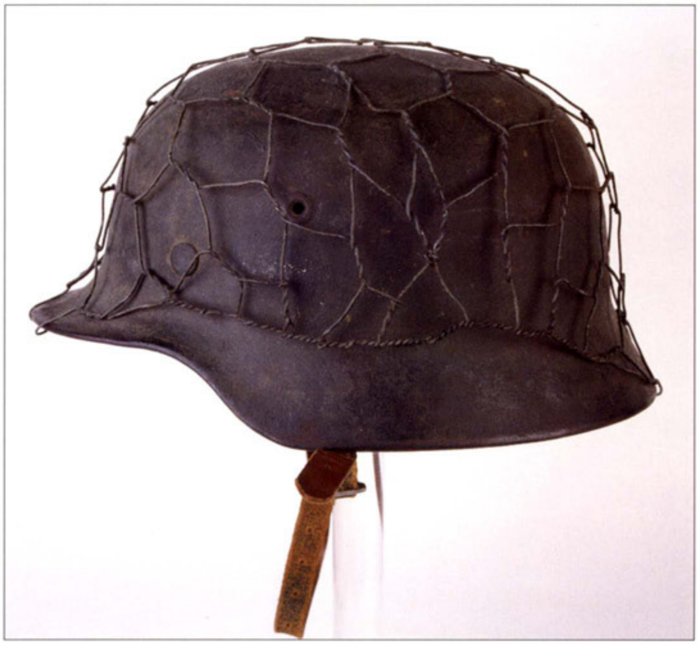


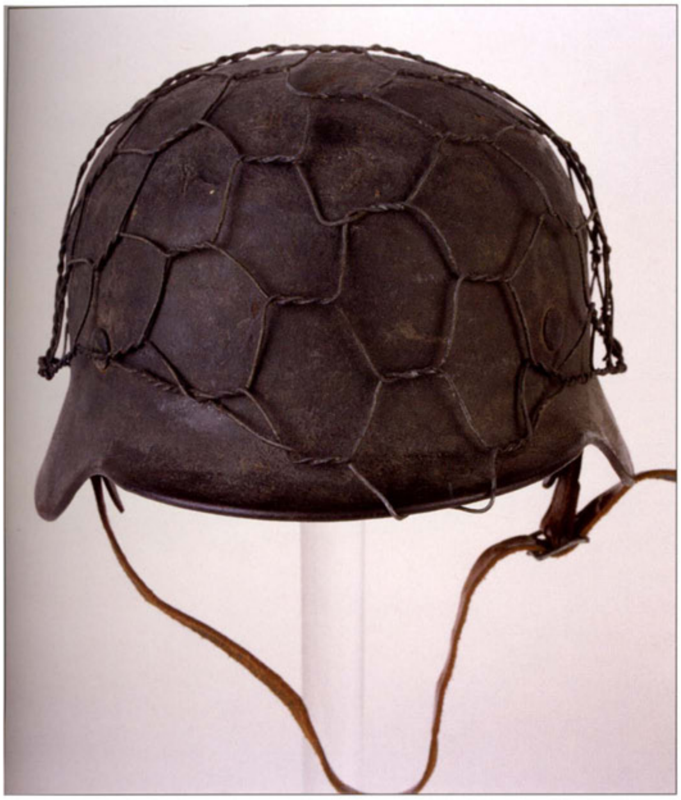


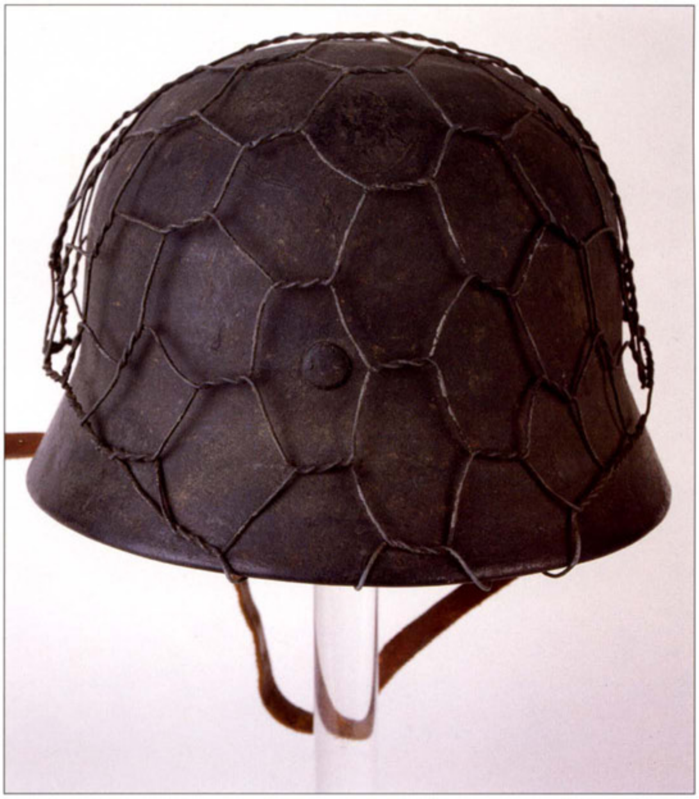


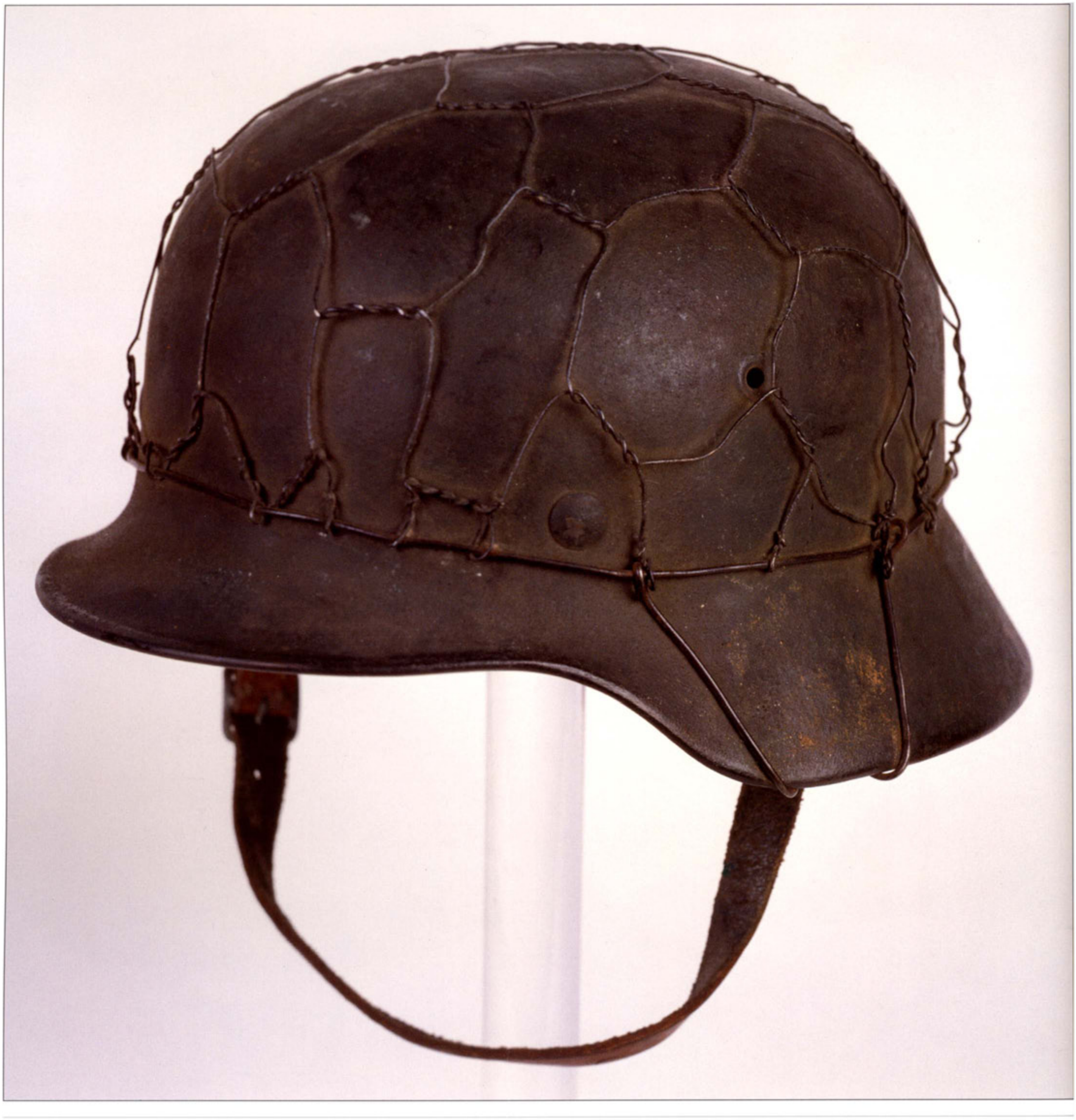
M40, with traces of the Wehrmacht eagle insignia under the paint, covered in light-gauge medium-weave chicken wire, gathered around the skull with twisted chicken wire and attached to the rim in several places. (Collection of John Burnett)



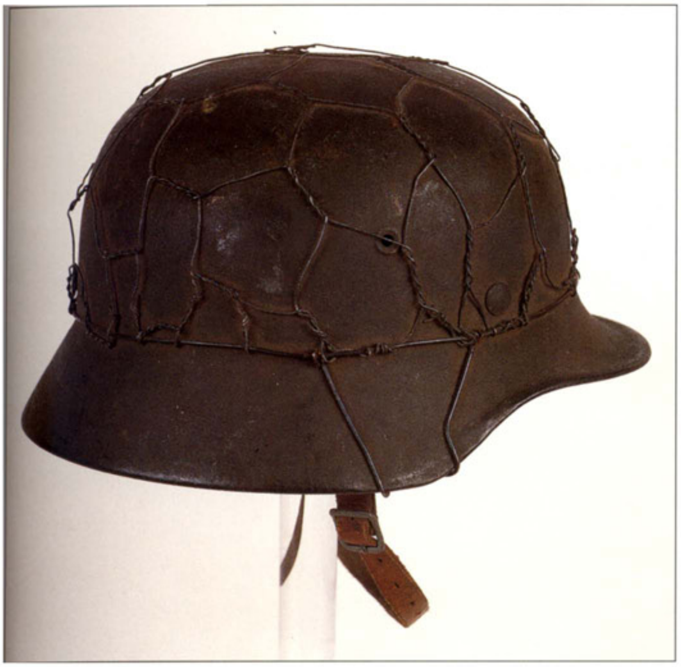


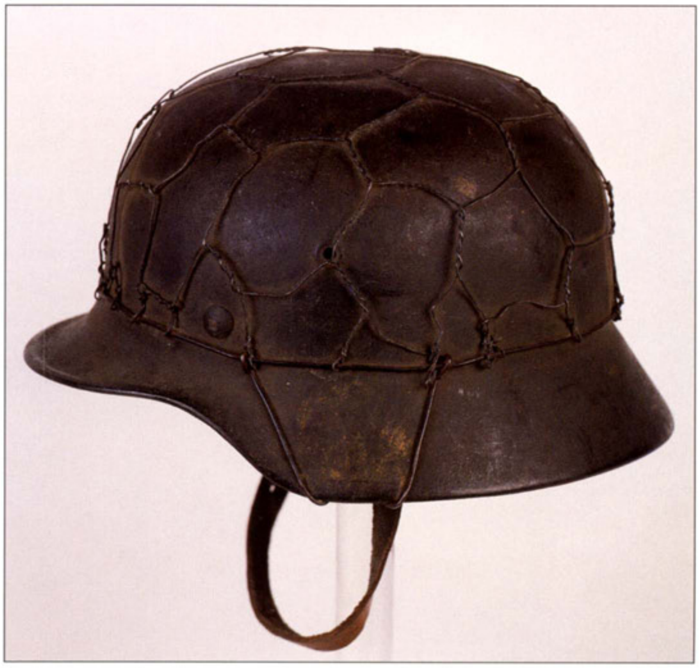


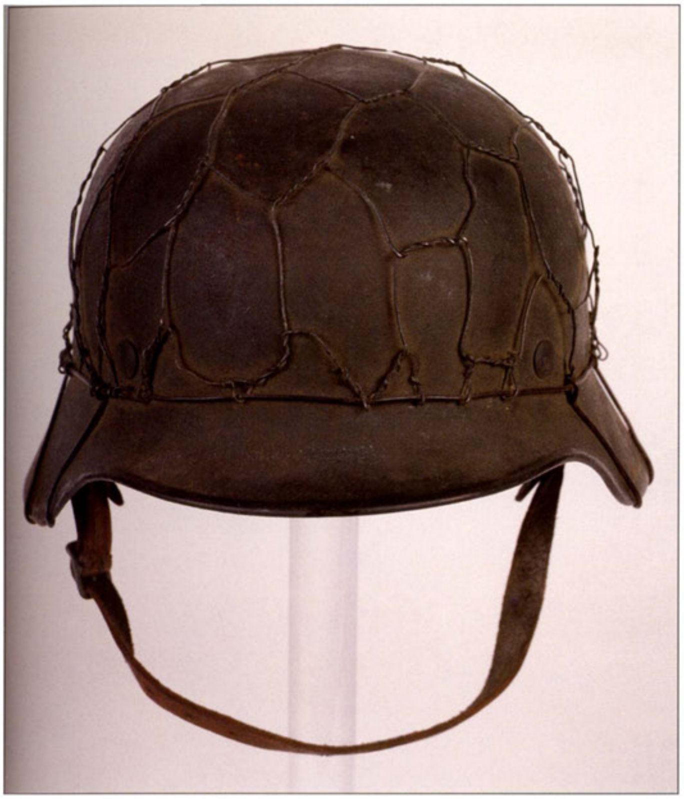


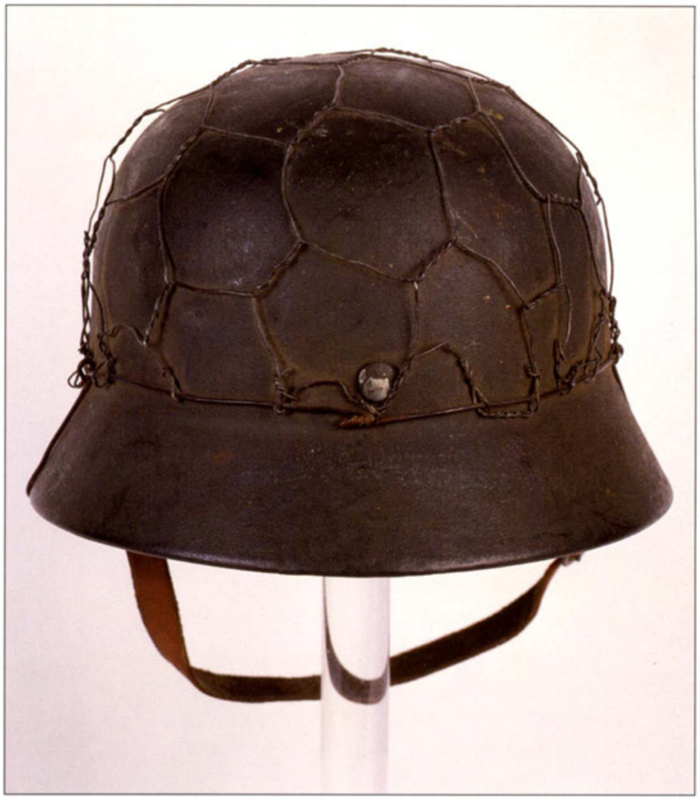


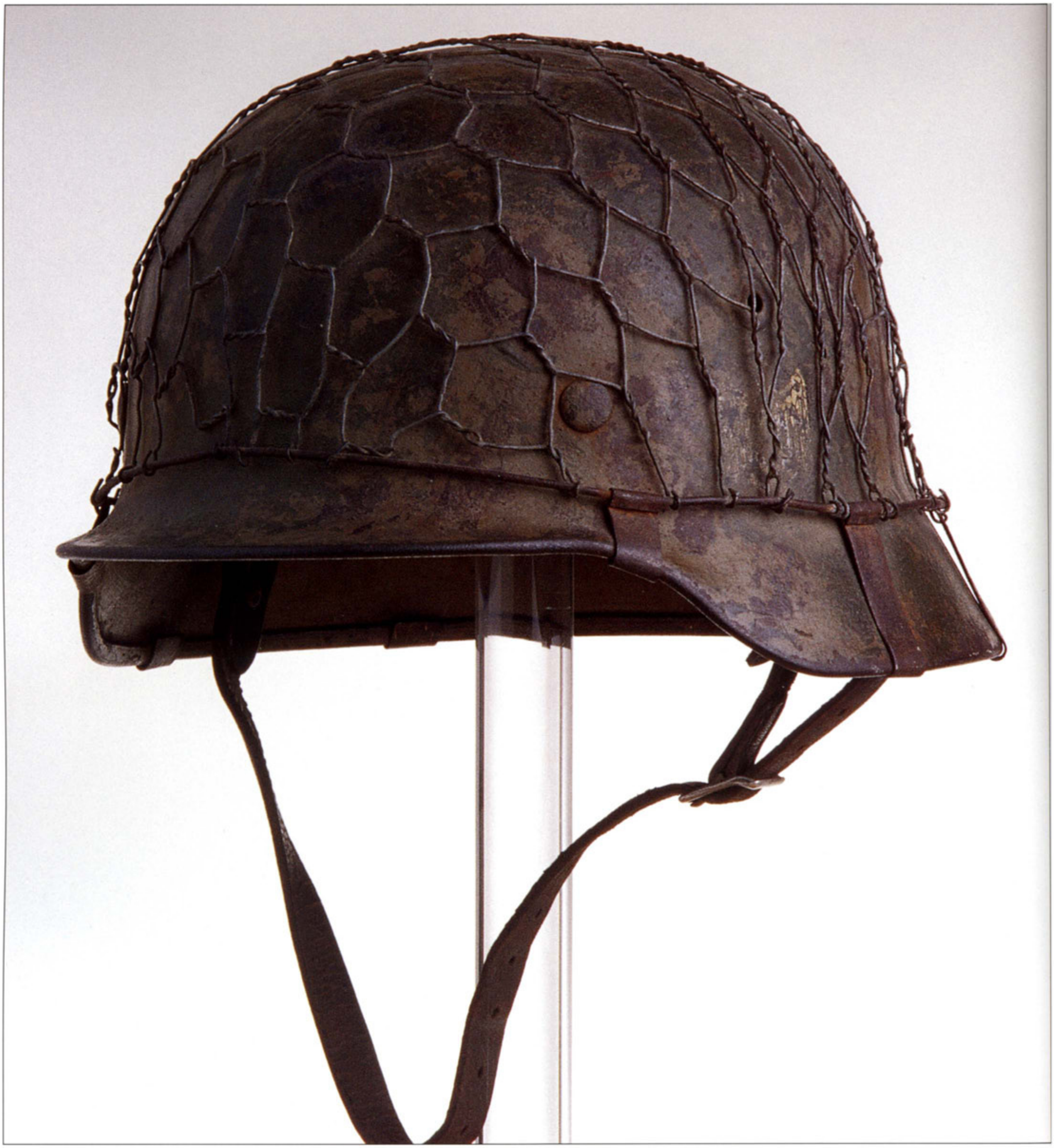
M40 with light-gauge open-weave chicken wire, gathered around the skull by a single strand of wire and attached to the rim by two hooks. (Collection of Perry Floyd)



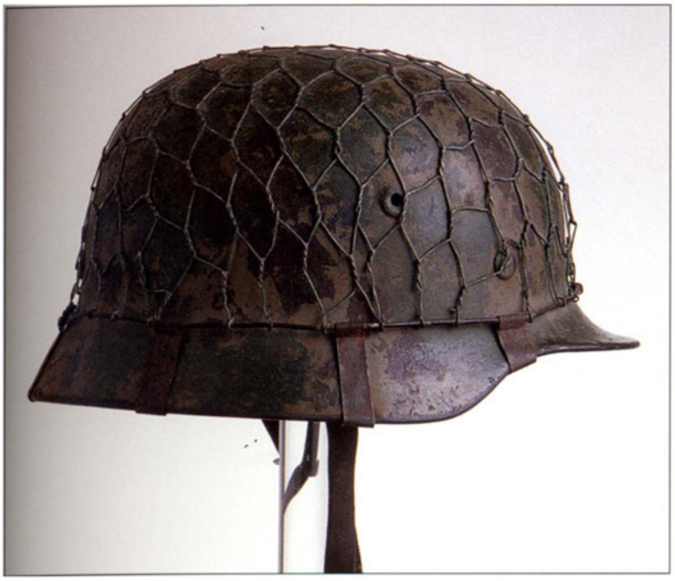


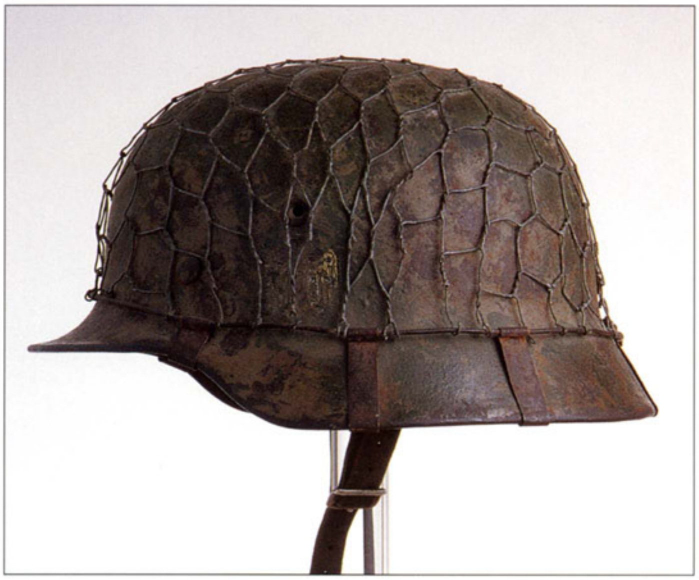


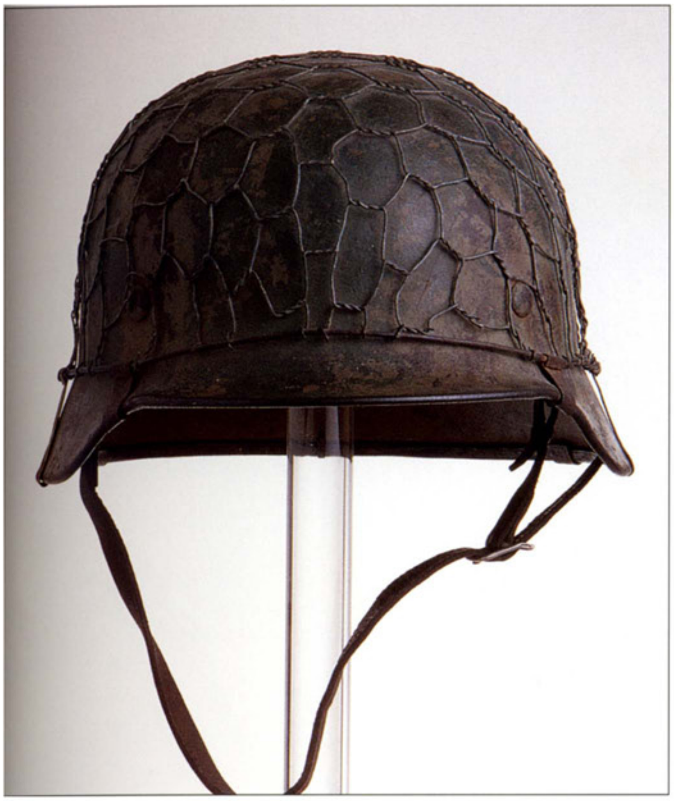


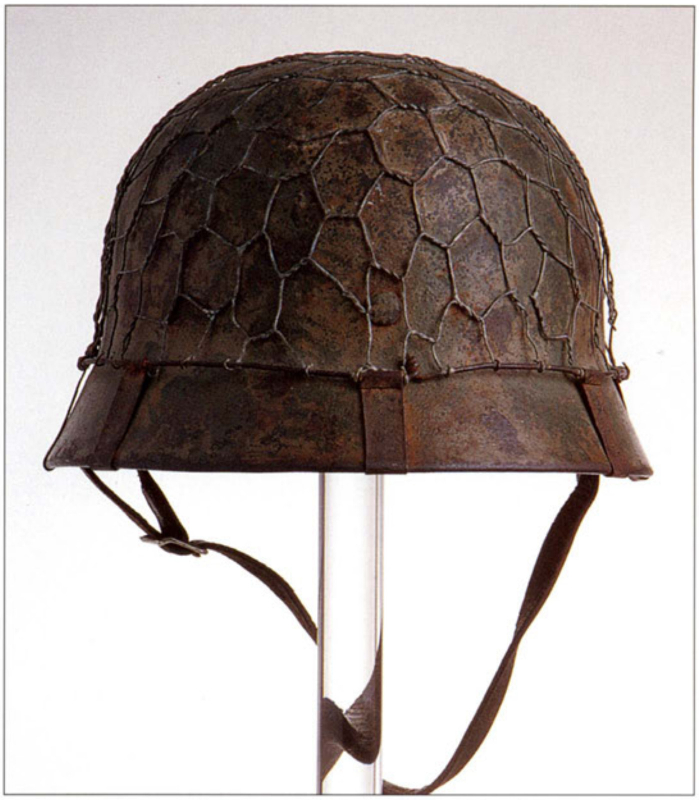


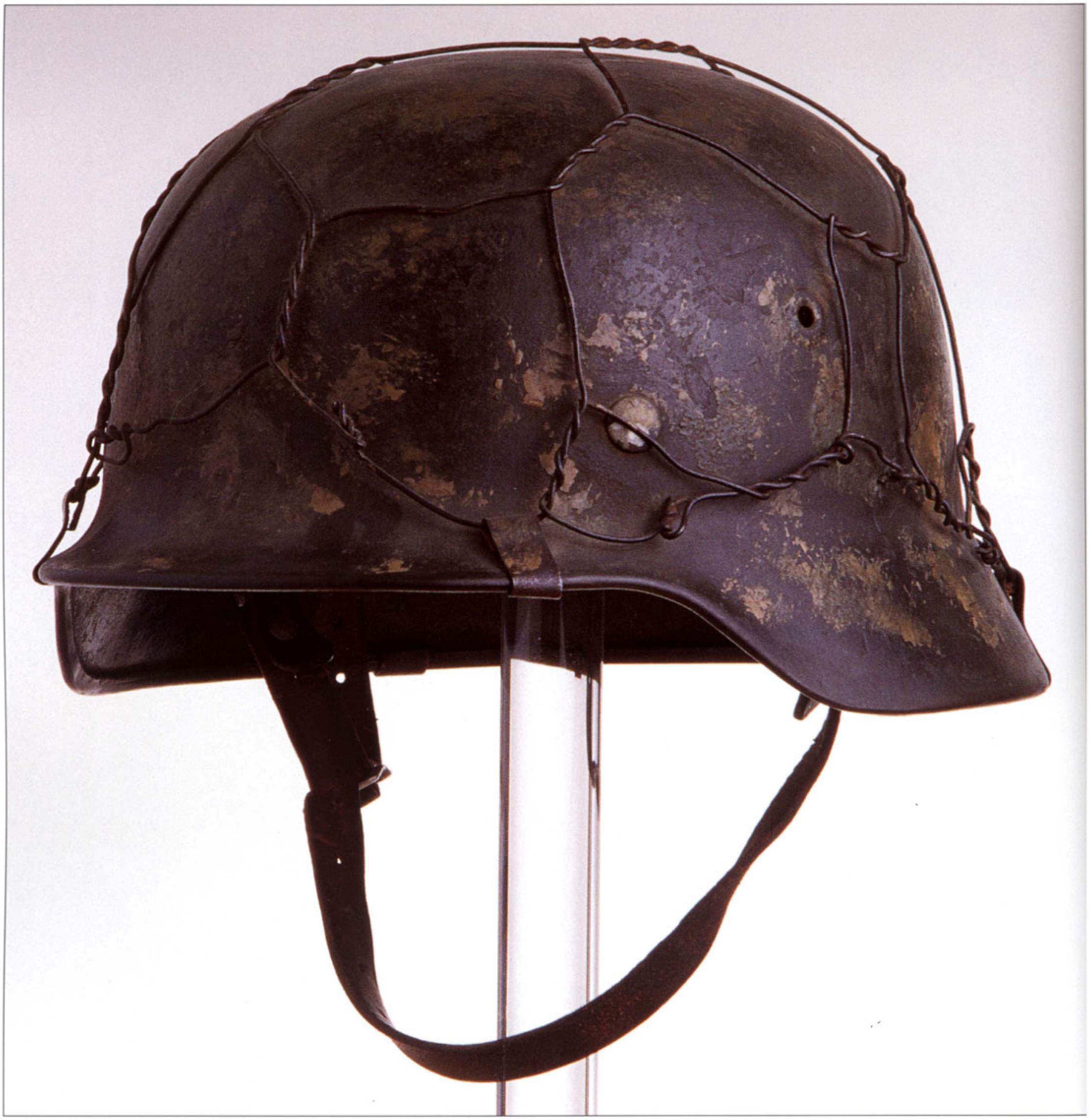
■ M40, camouflaged in khaki and green, with Wehrmacht eagle insignia visible through the paint. It is covered with a cage of light-gauge close-weave chicken wire, gathered around the skull by a single strand of wire and attached to the rim with seven flat metal hooks. (Collection of David Asselin)



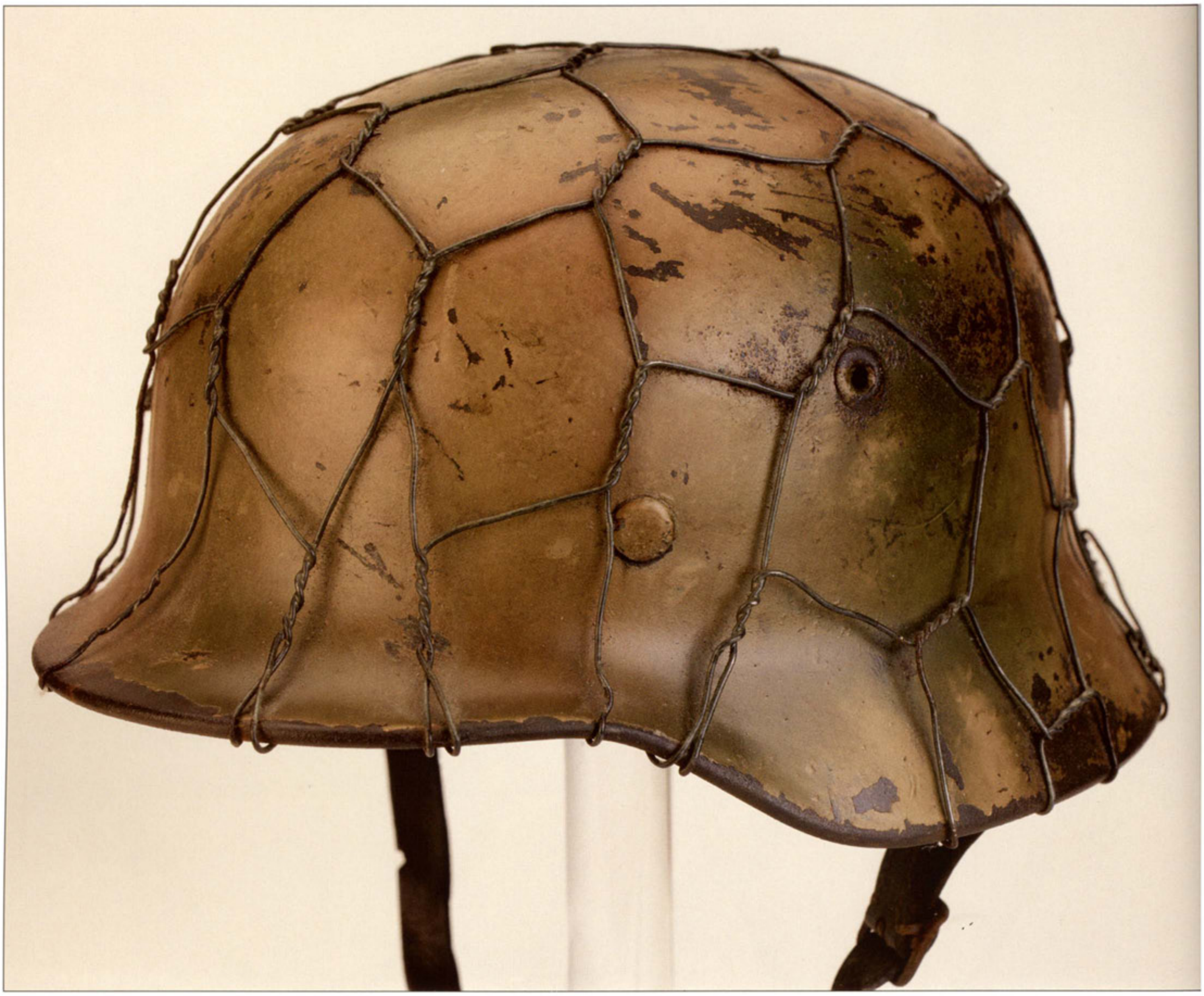




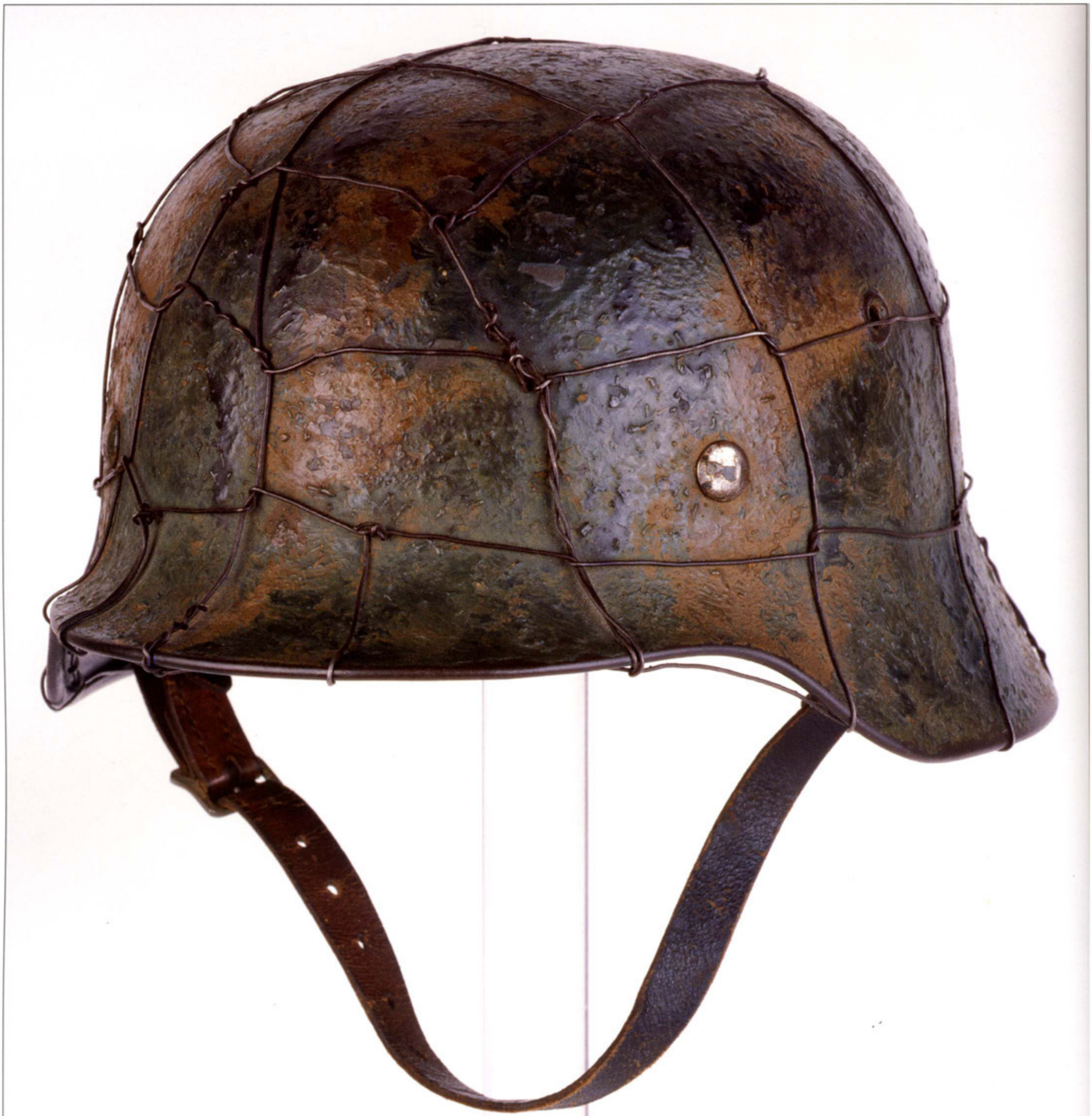




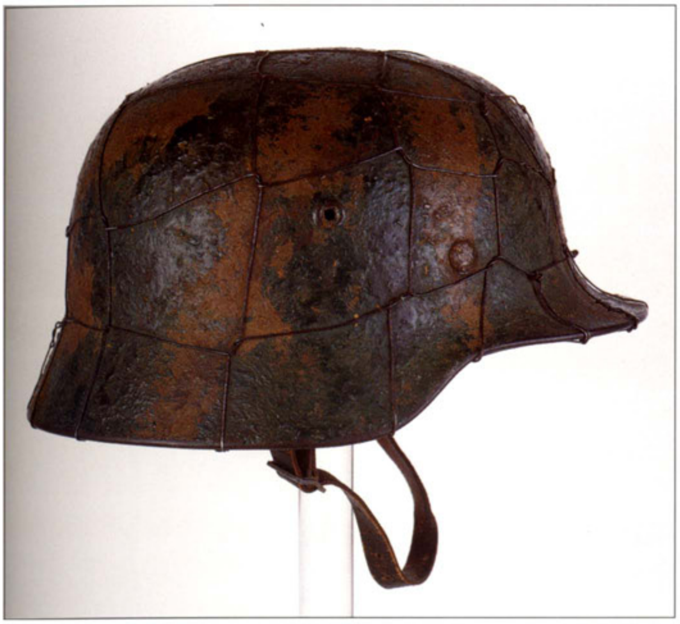
M40, camouflaged in patches of tan over a dark grey-green base, covered by a light-gauge open-weave chicken wire, held onto the rim by four flat metal hooks. (Collection of David Asselin)

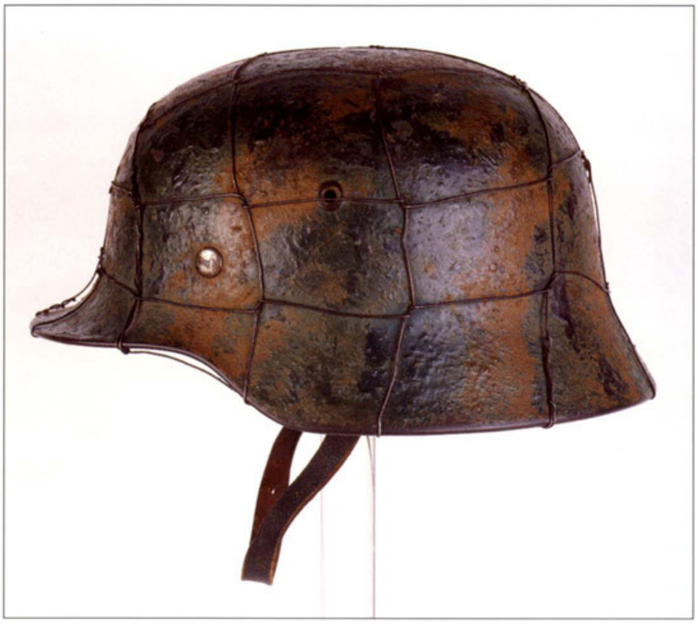


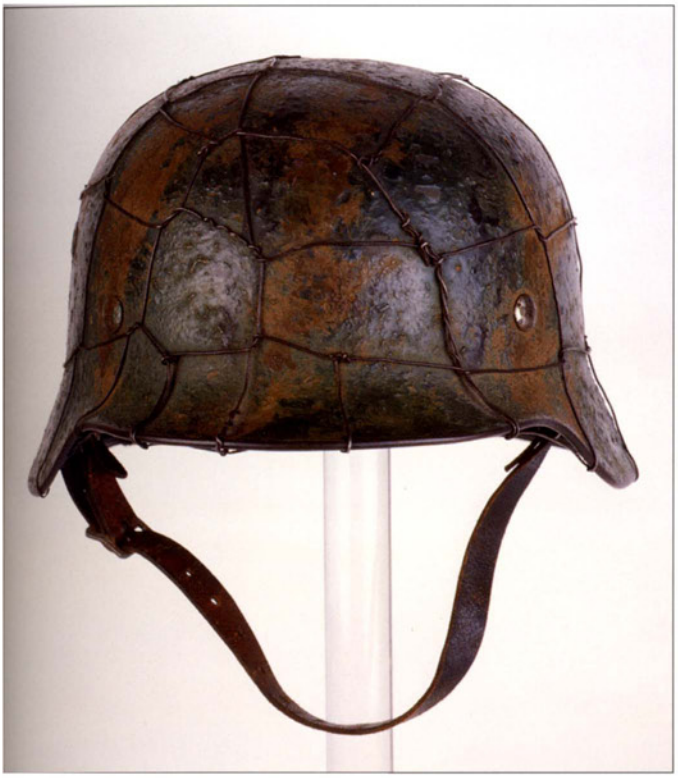
■ M40, camouflaged in sprayed patches of brown and green over a tan base, covered with light-gauge medium-weave chicken wire. (Collection of Brian Maederer - Military Collectibles)

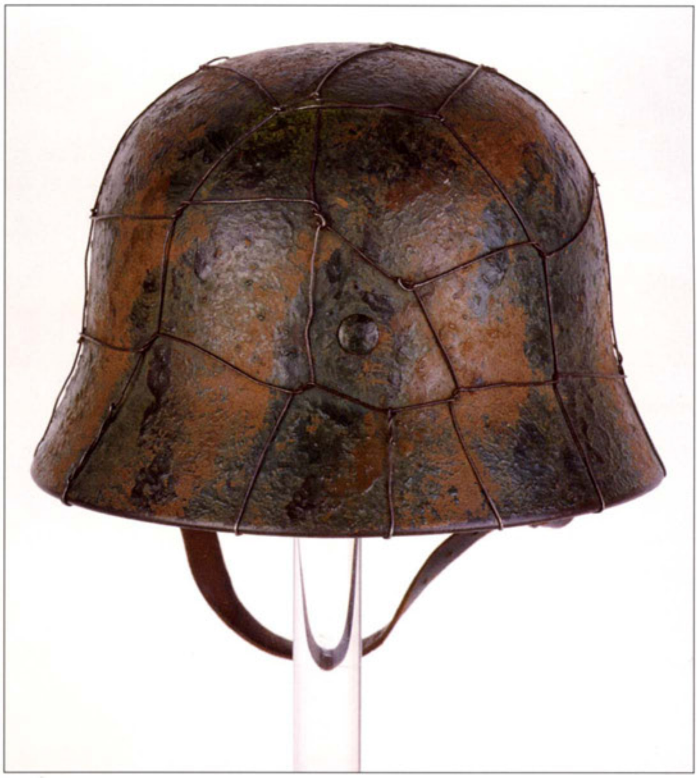


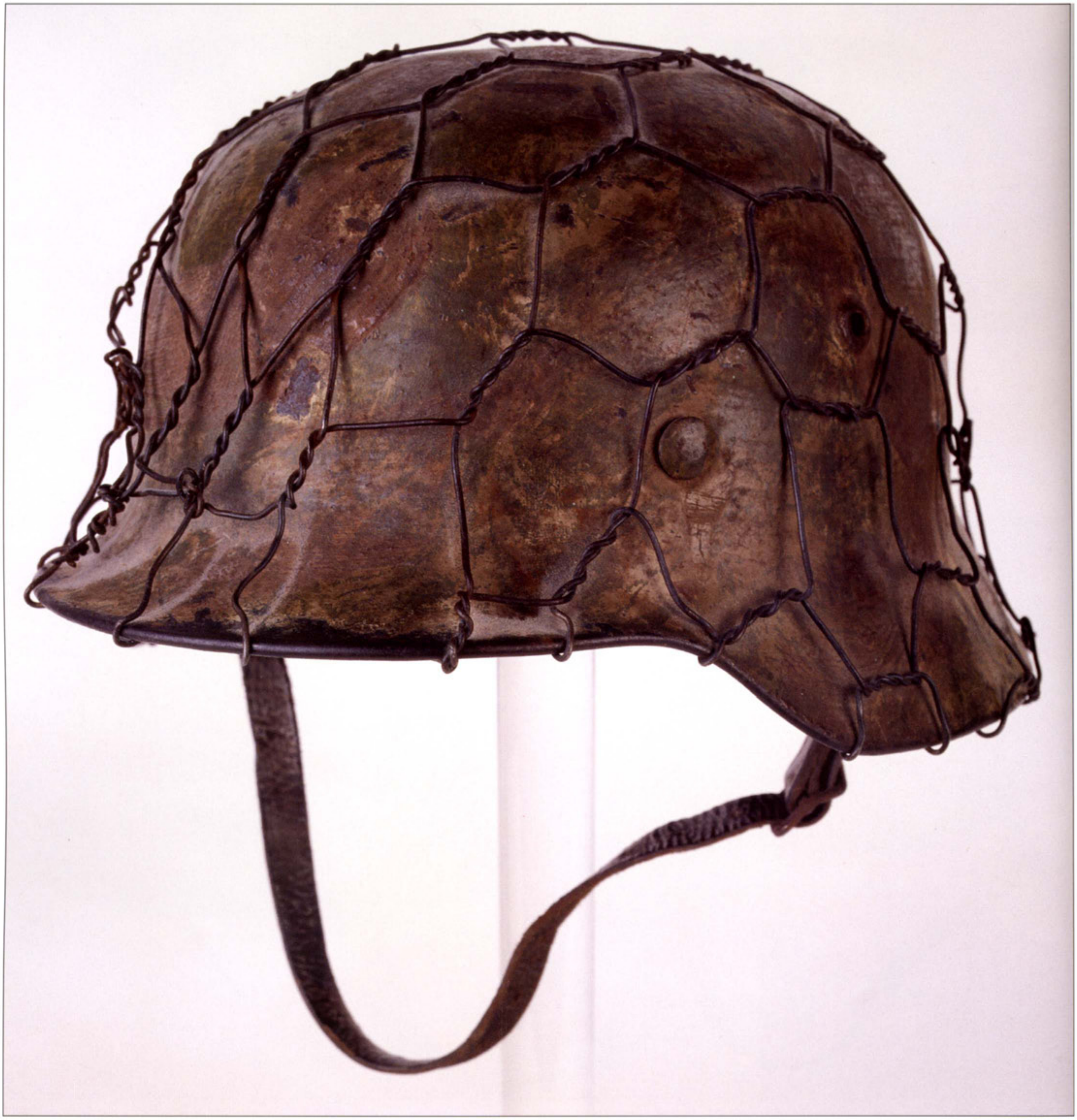
■ M40, camouflaged in green patches over a base of tan sand/grit mixture, covered by light-gauge open-weave chicken wire. (Collection Chris Jones)



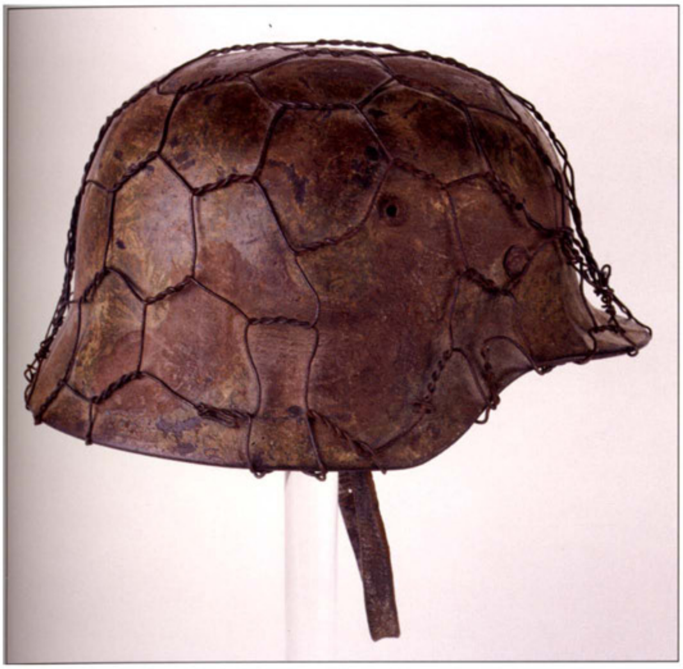


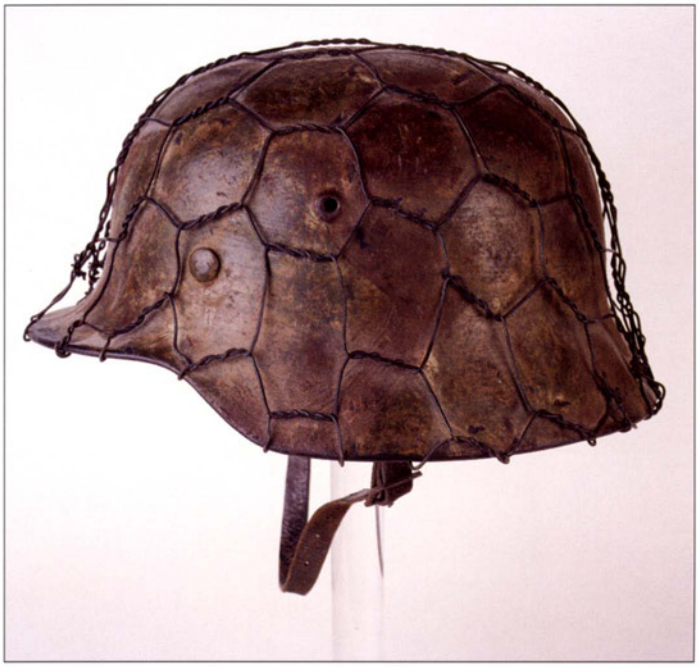


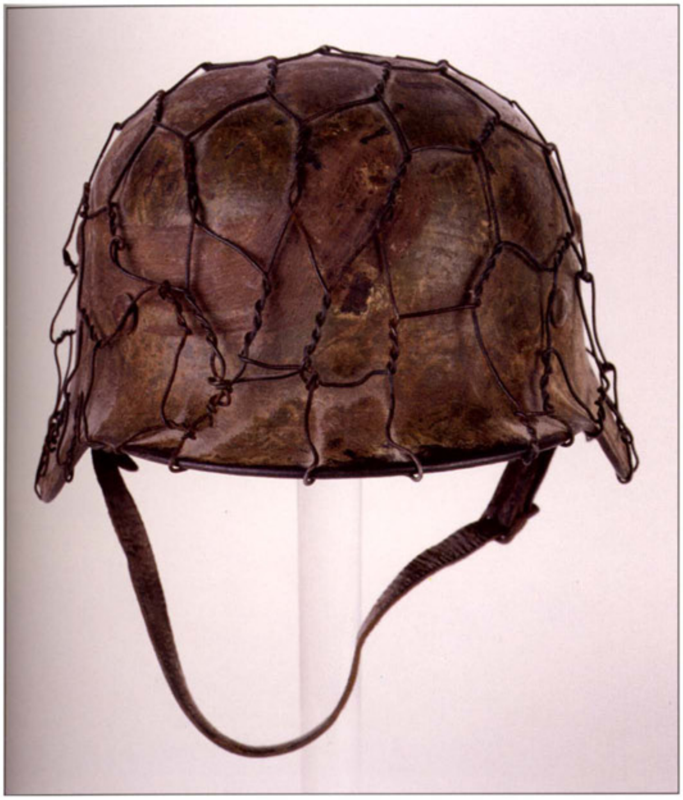


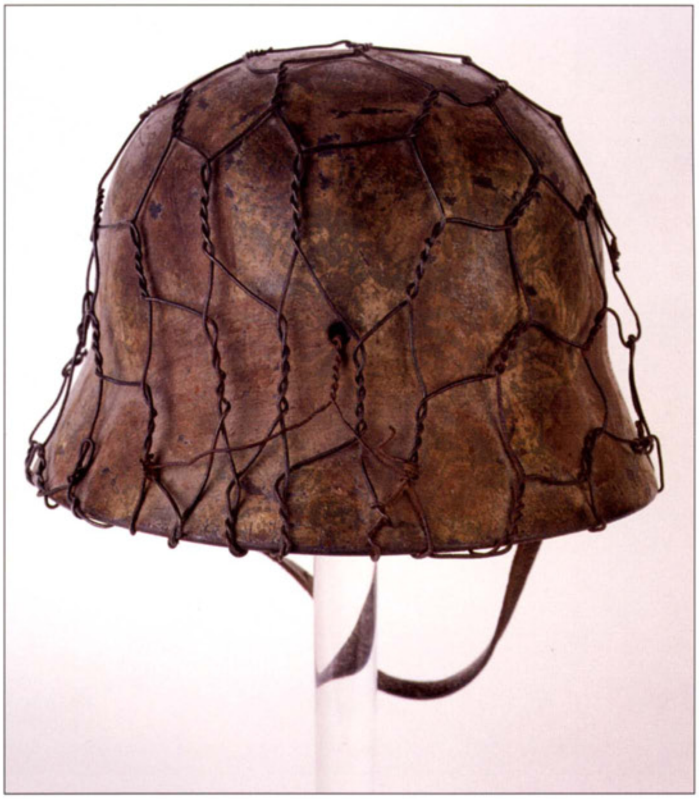


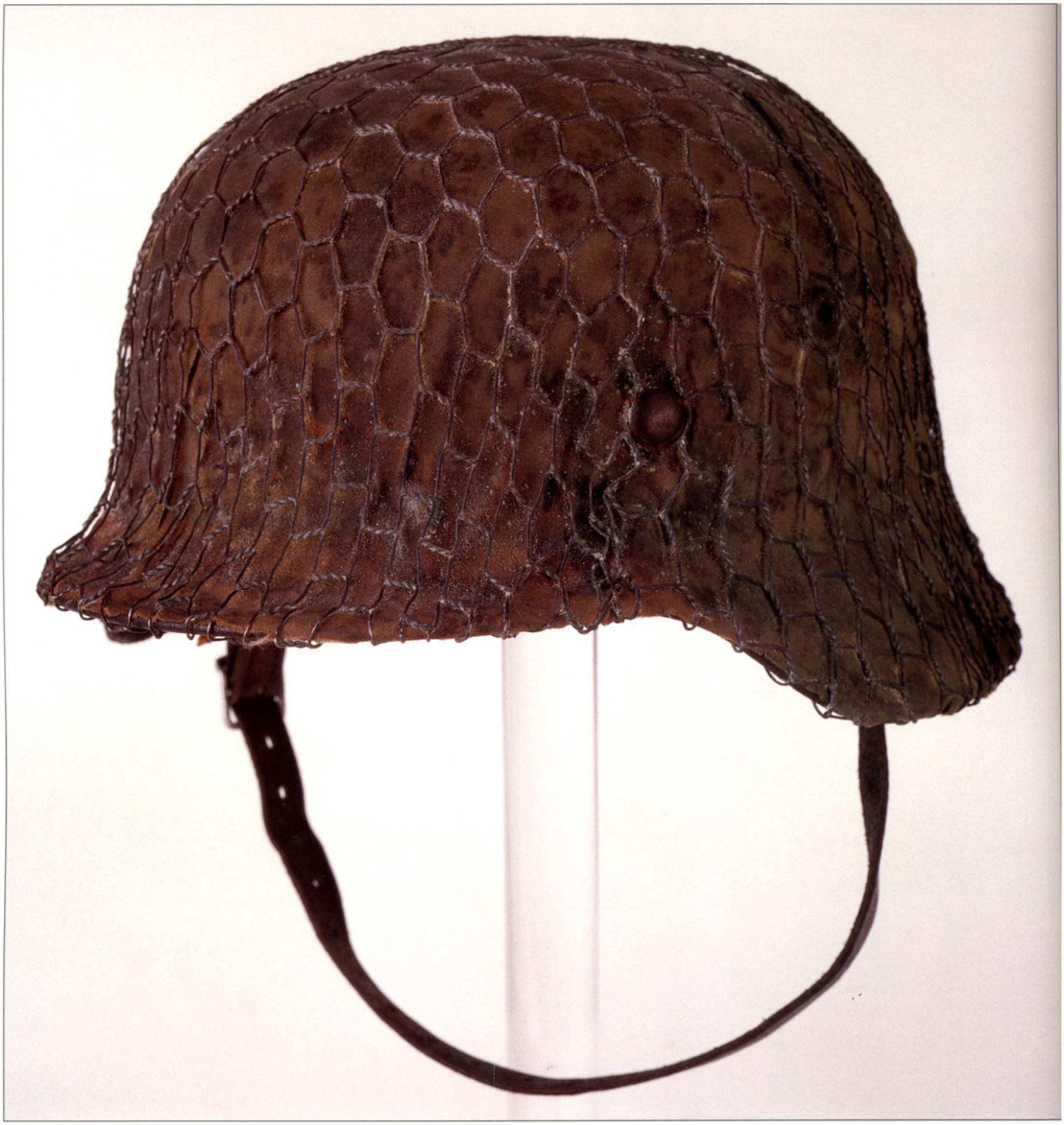
■ M40, camouflaged in patches of green and brown over a tan base, covered by light-gauge open-weave chicken wire. (Collection of John Burnett)



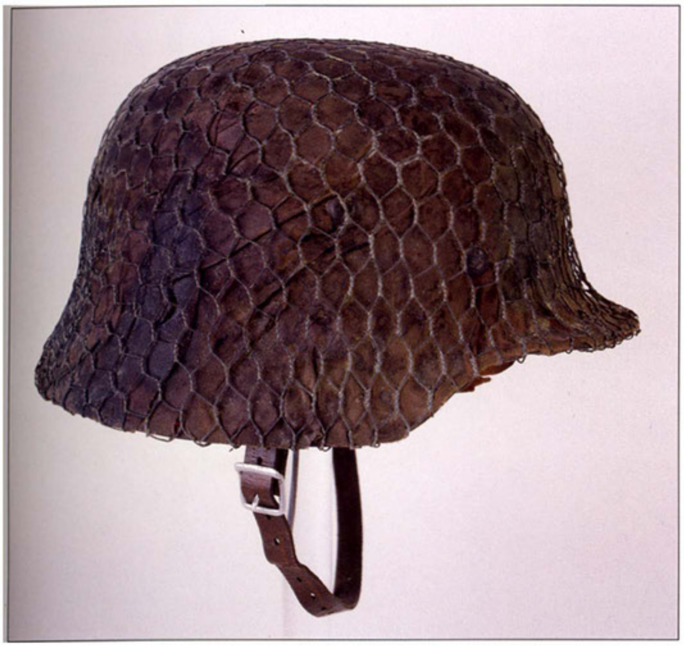


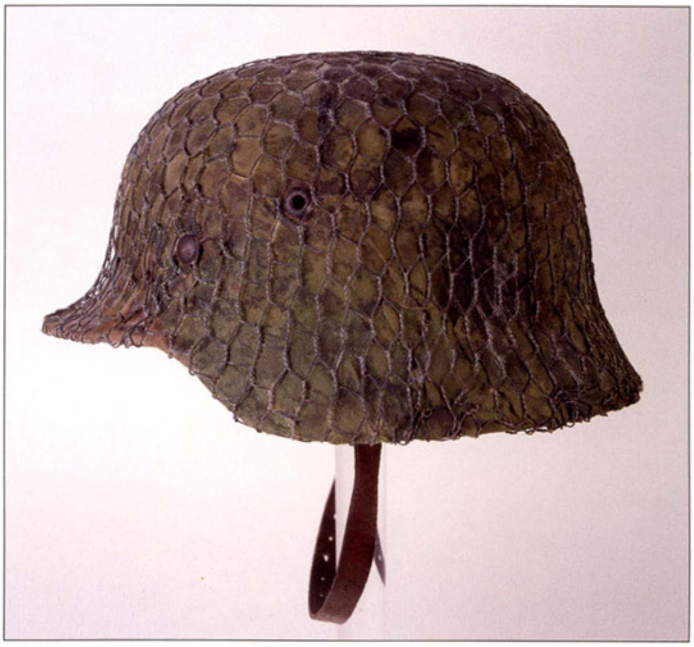


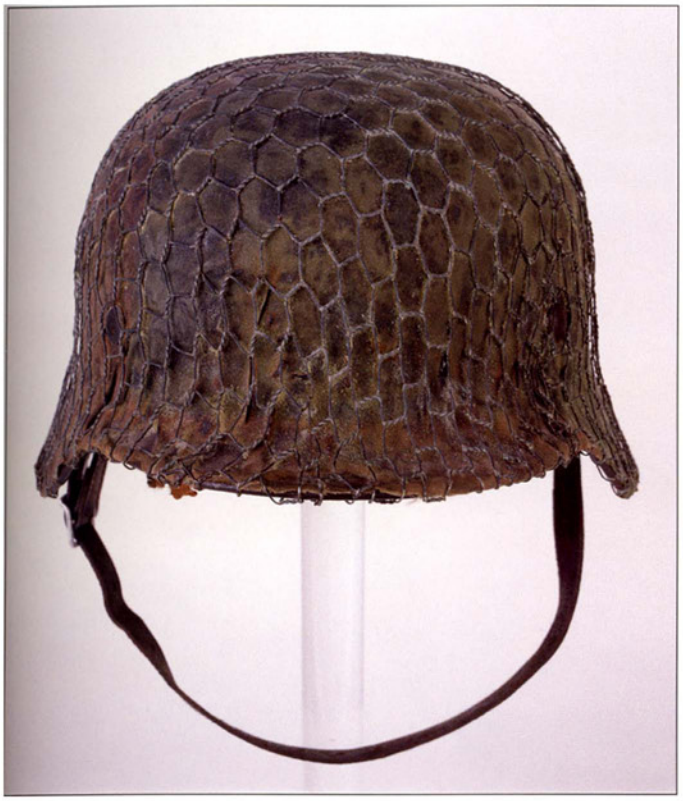


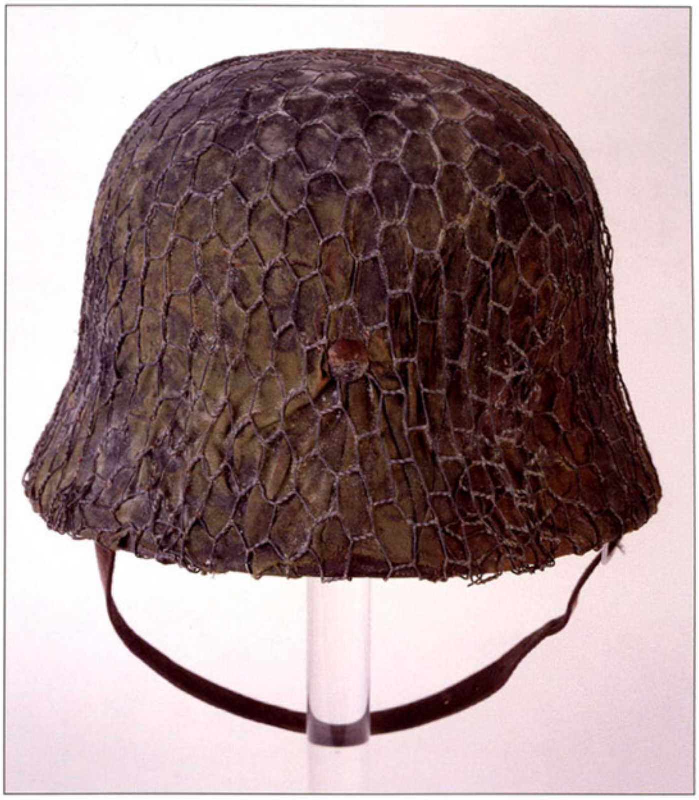


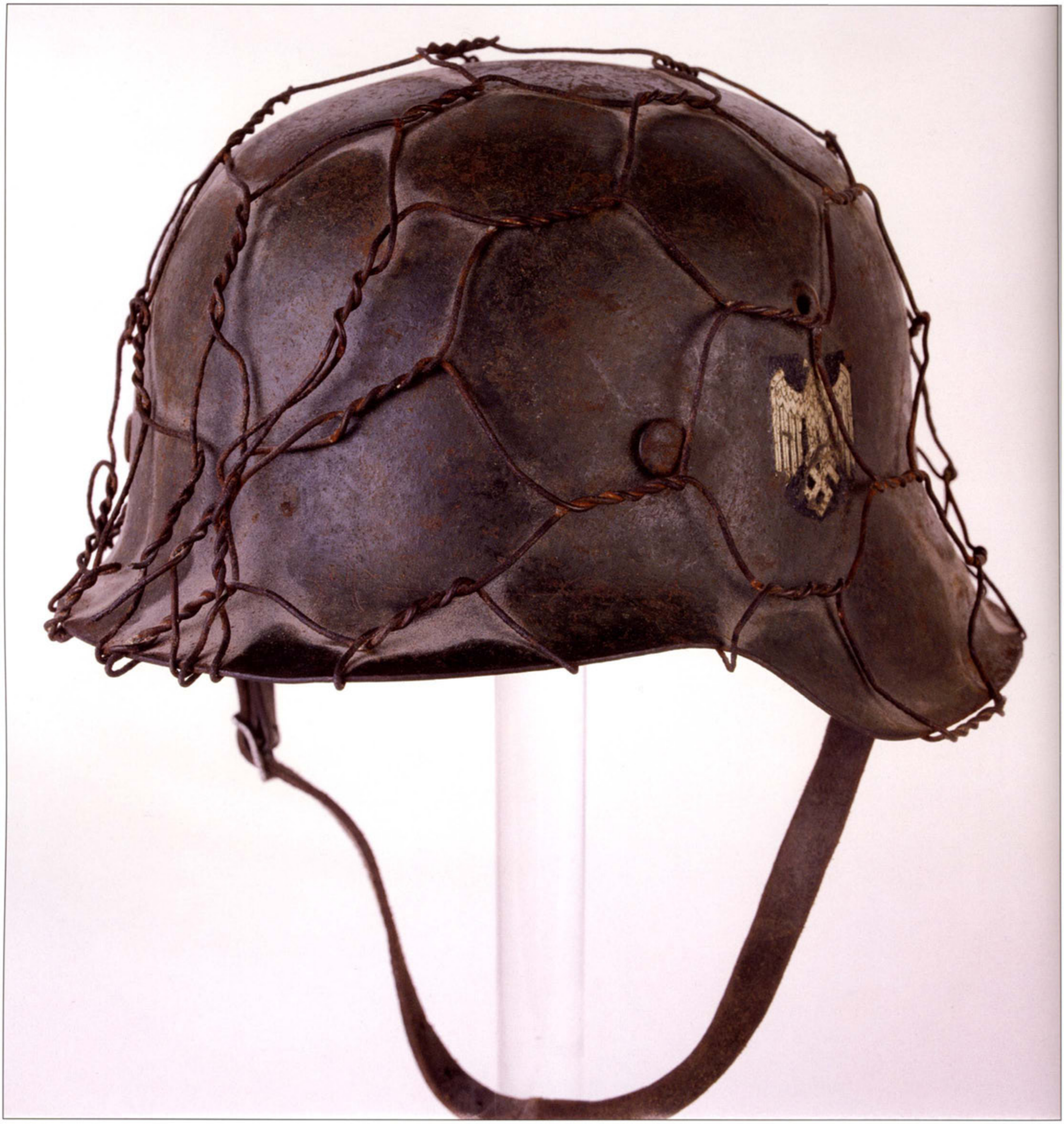
■ M40, camouflaged in light and dark green and brown fabric (possible parachute material), covered by light-gauge very close-weave chicken wire. (Collection of John Burnett)



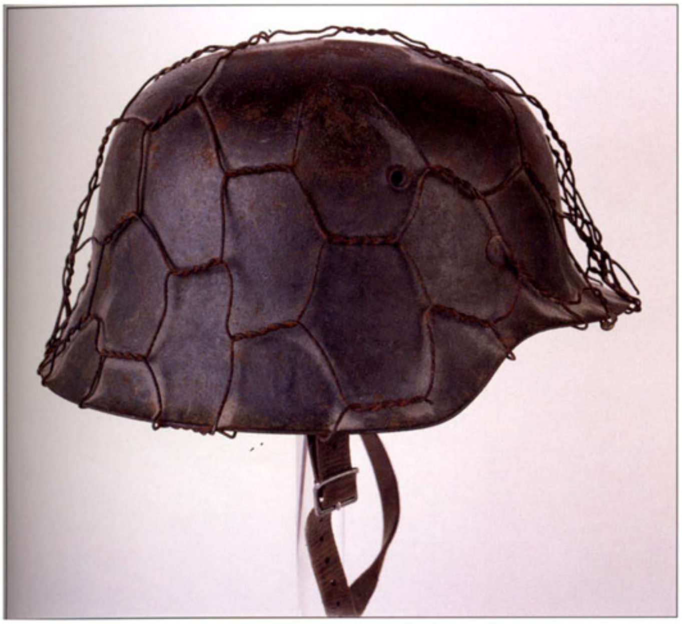


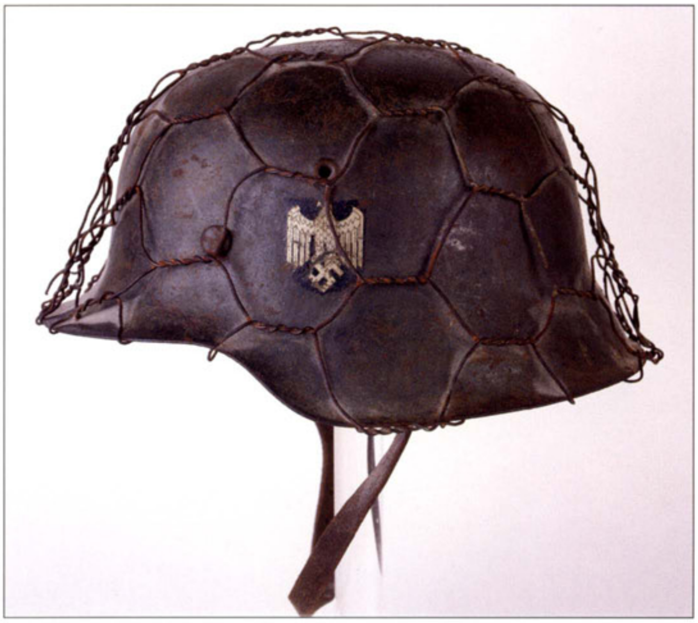


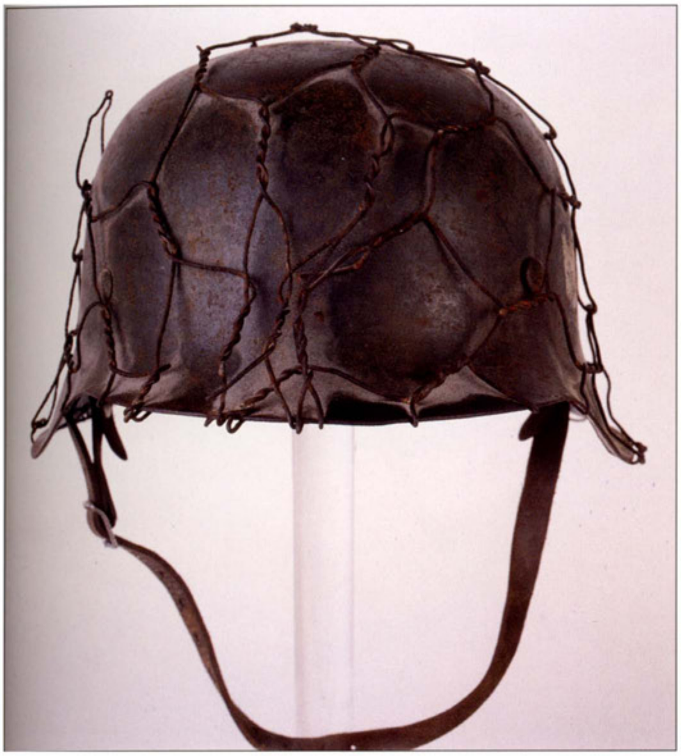


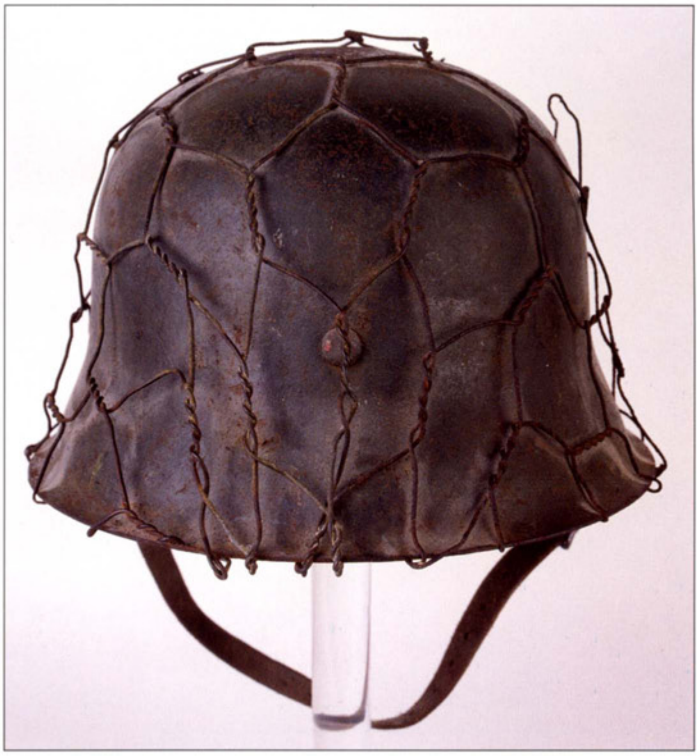


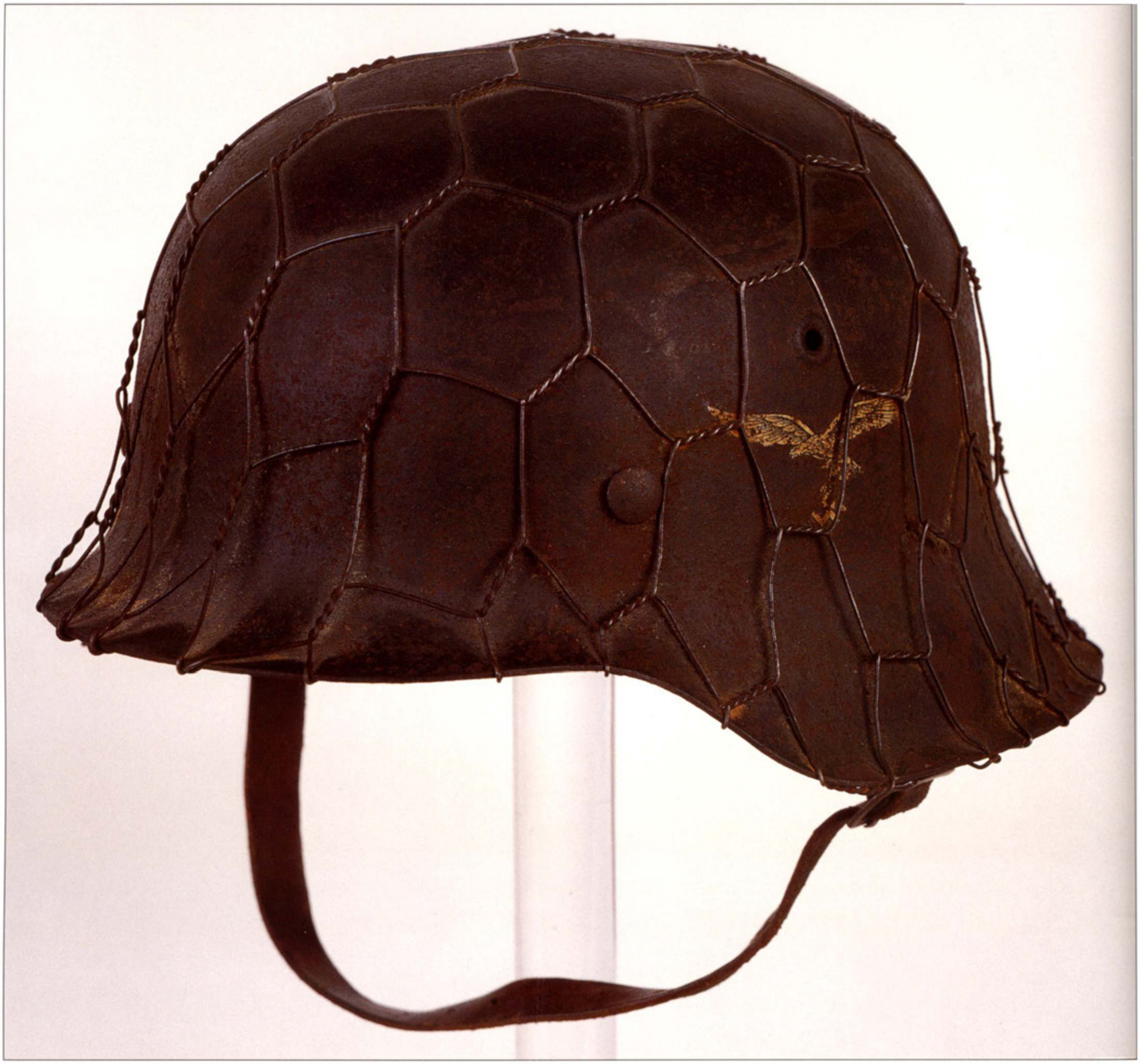
M42, with Wehrmacht eagle insignia, covered in light-gauge medium-weave chicken wire. (Collection of John Burnett)



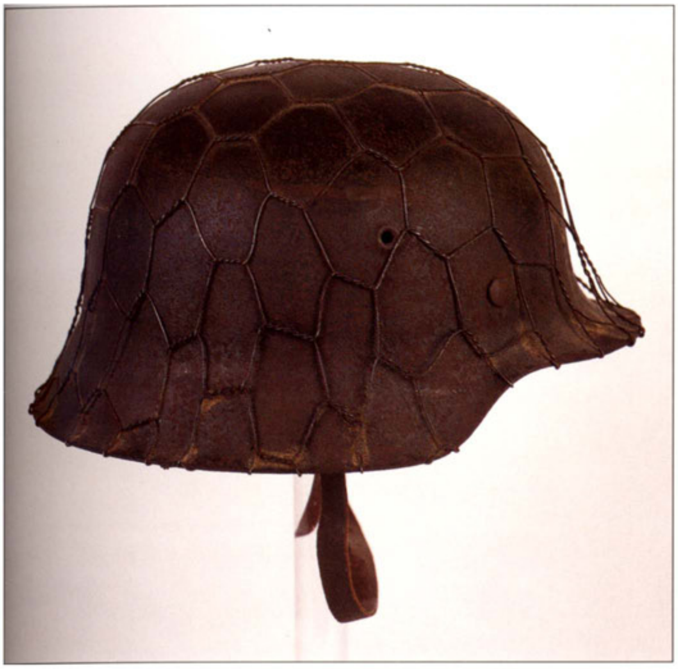


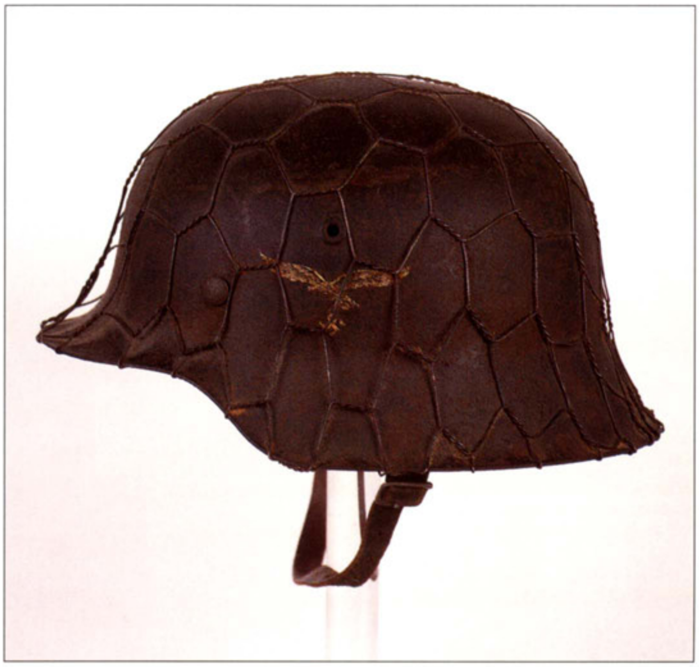


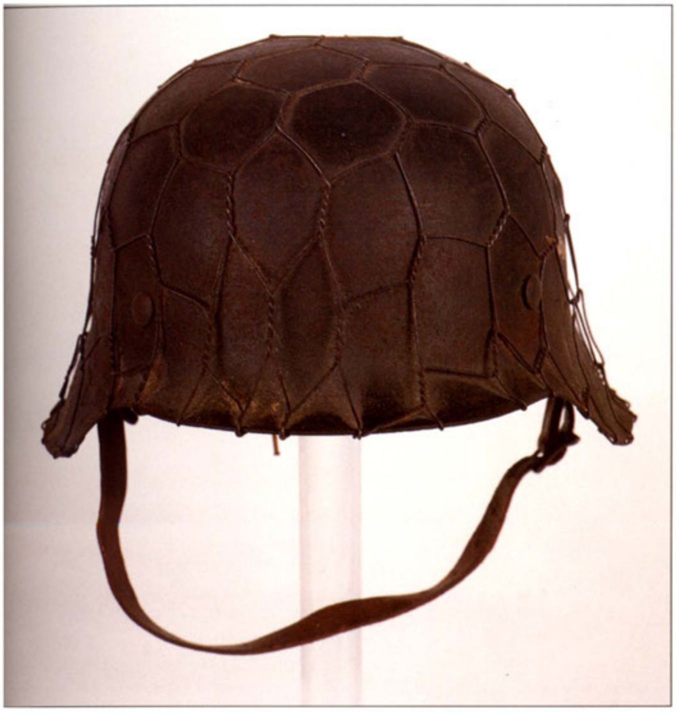


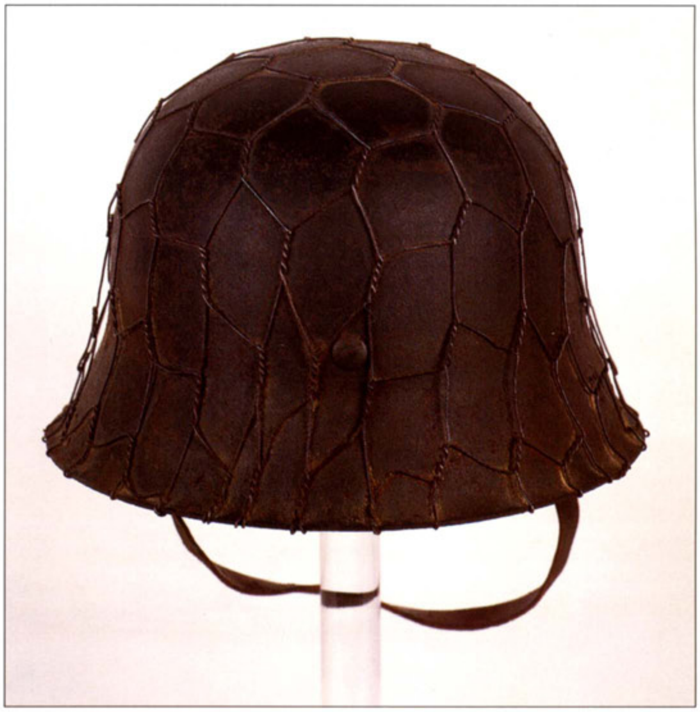


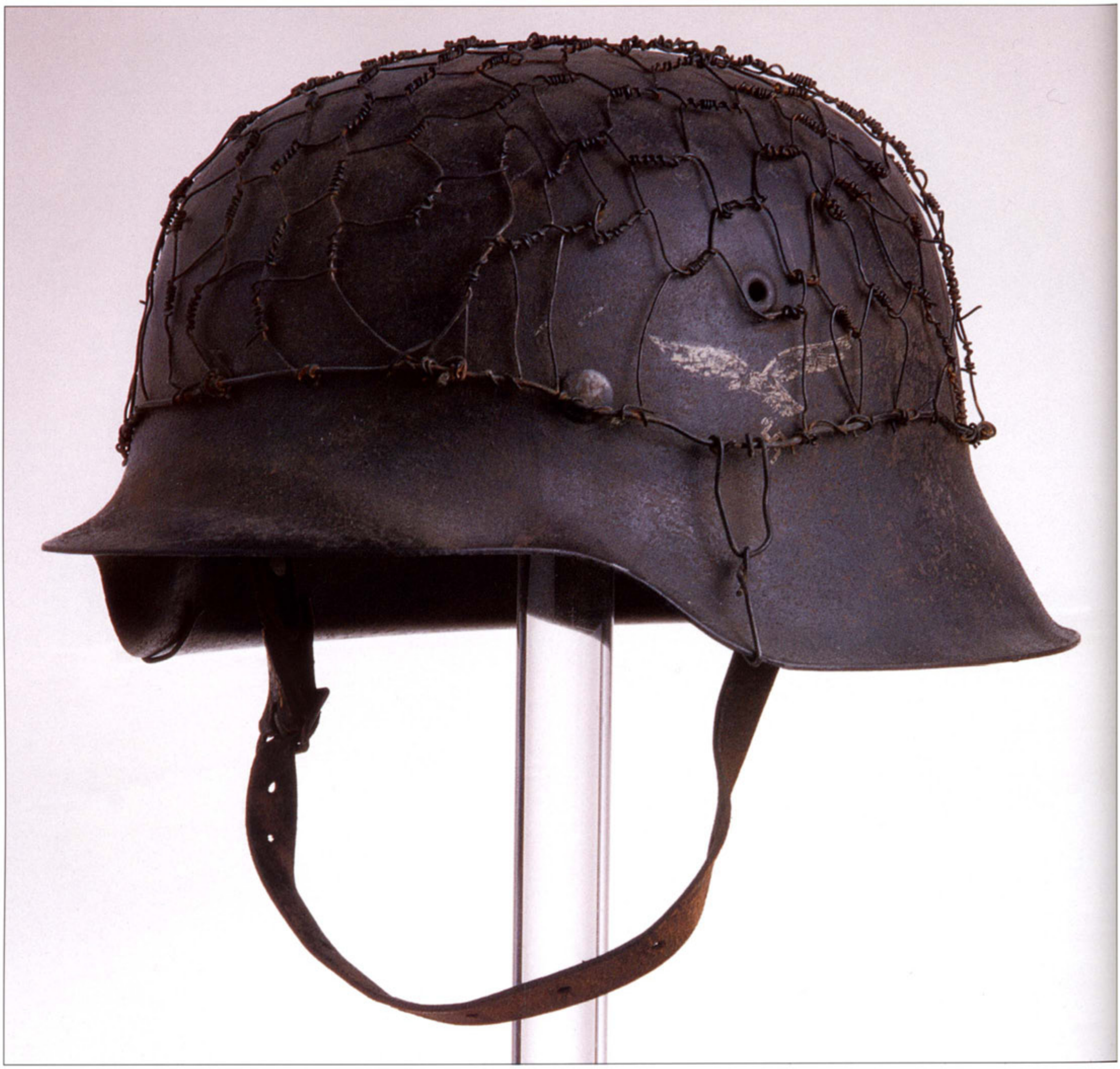
M42, with Luftwaffe second pattern eagle insignia, covered in light-gauge medium-weave chicken wire. (Collection of John Burnett)



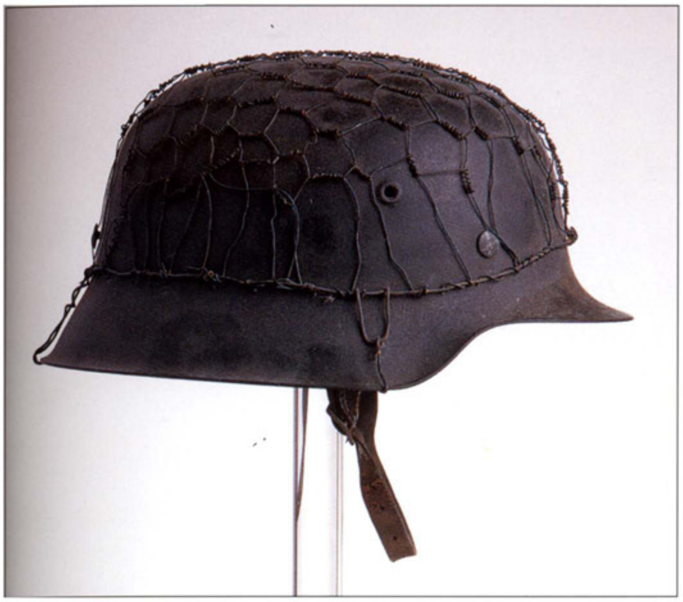


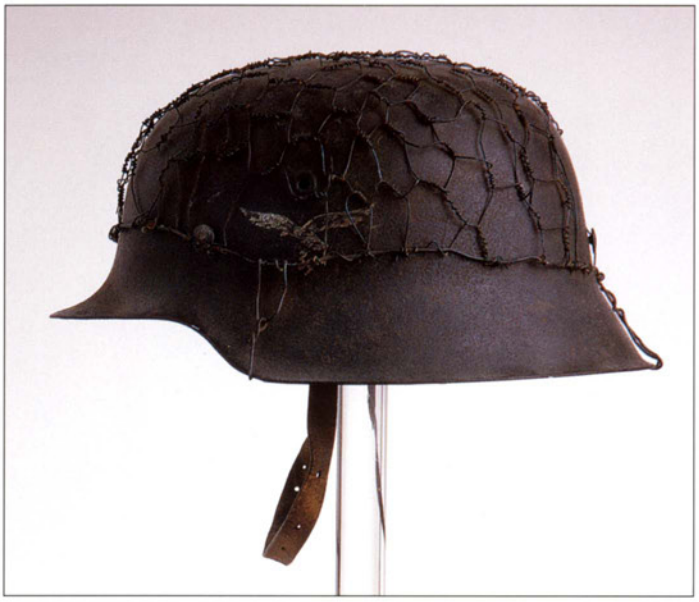


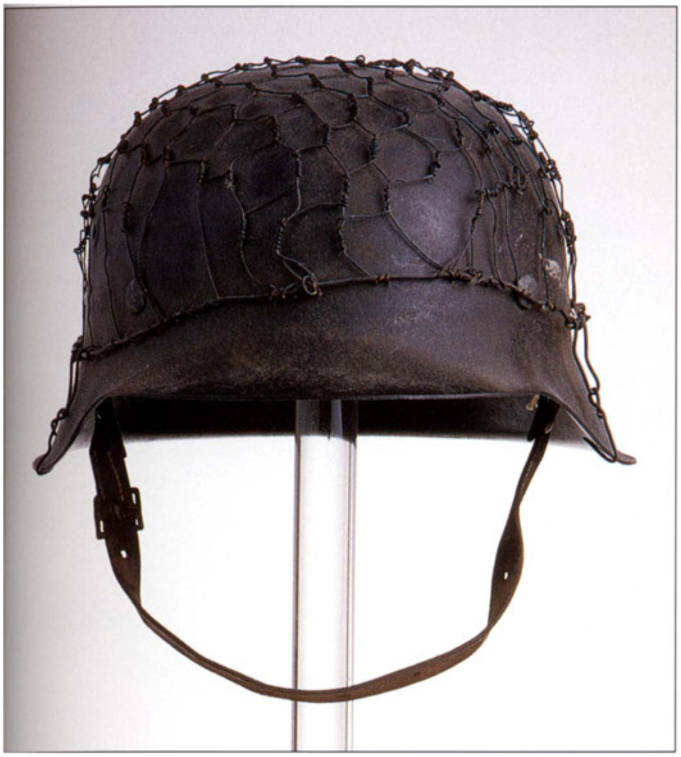


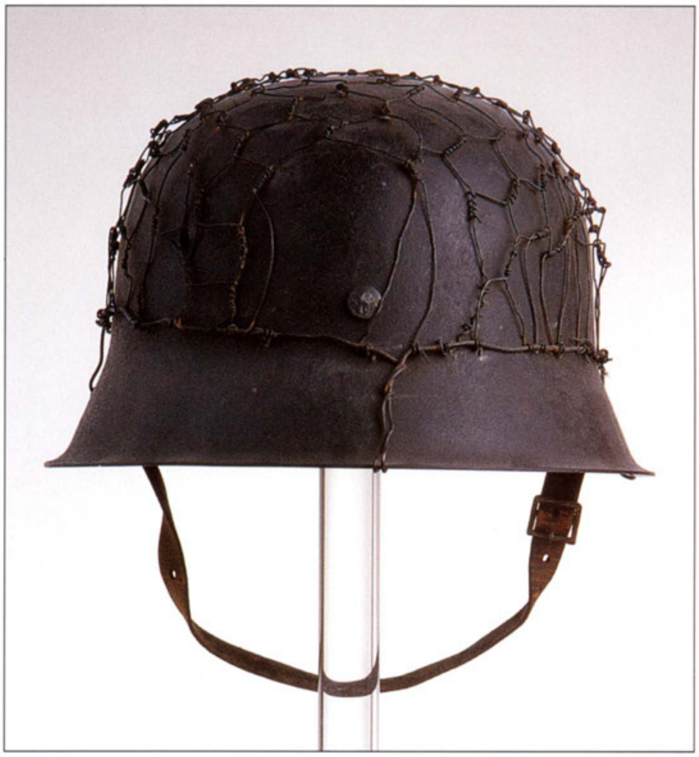


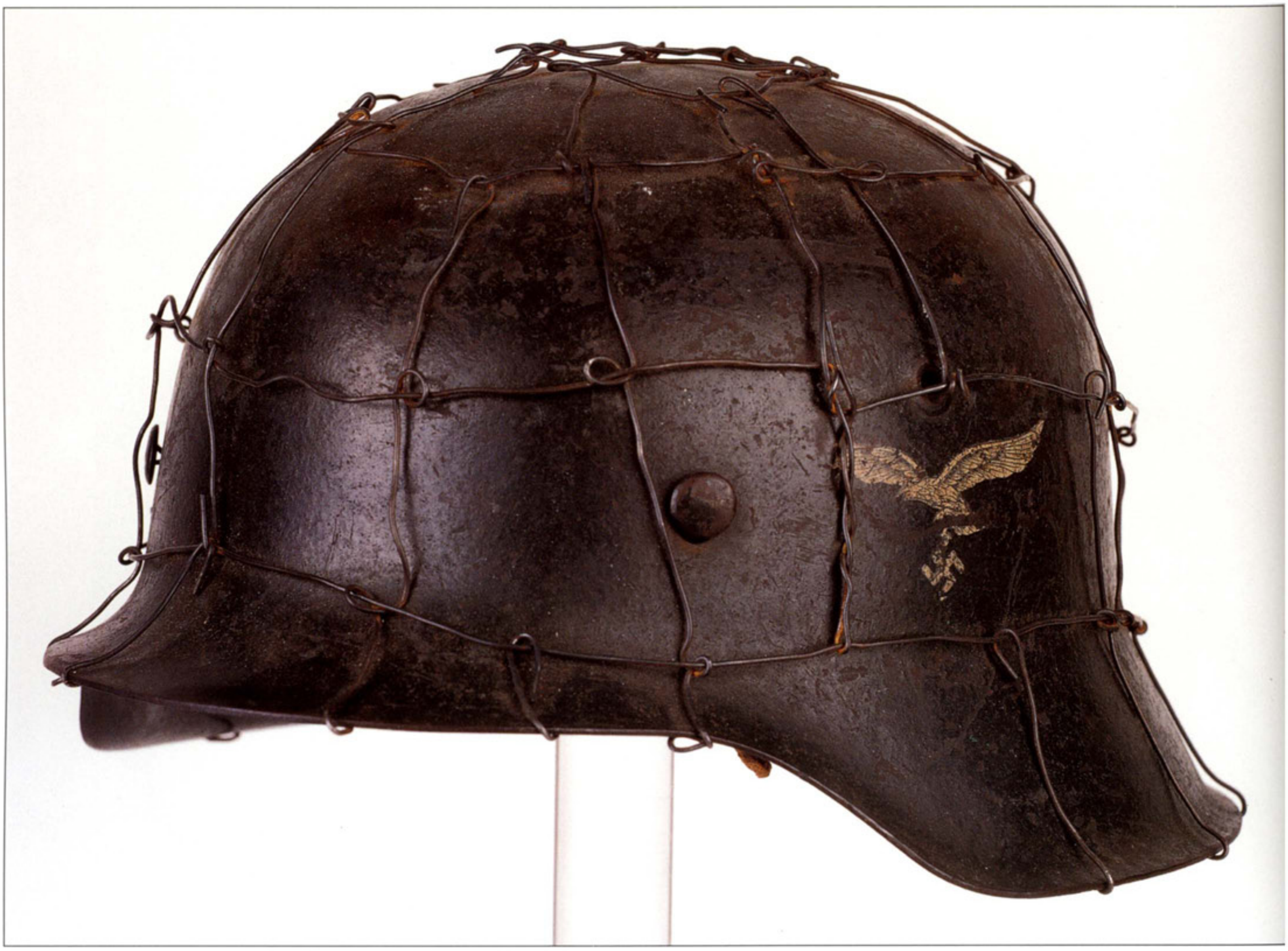
M42, with Luftwaffe second pattern eagle insignia, covered in light-gauge close-weave chicken wire, attached to the rim by three hooks. (Collection of David Asselin)



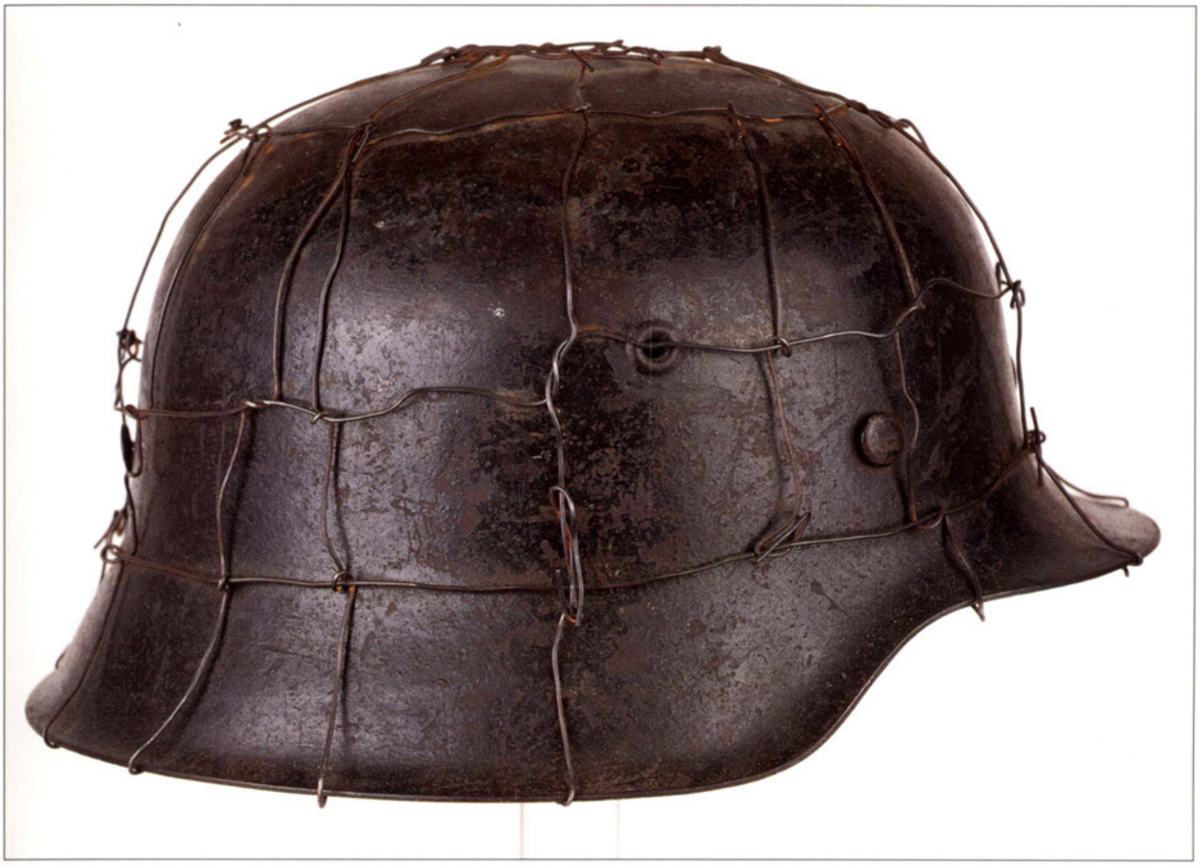


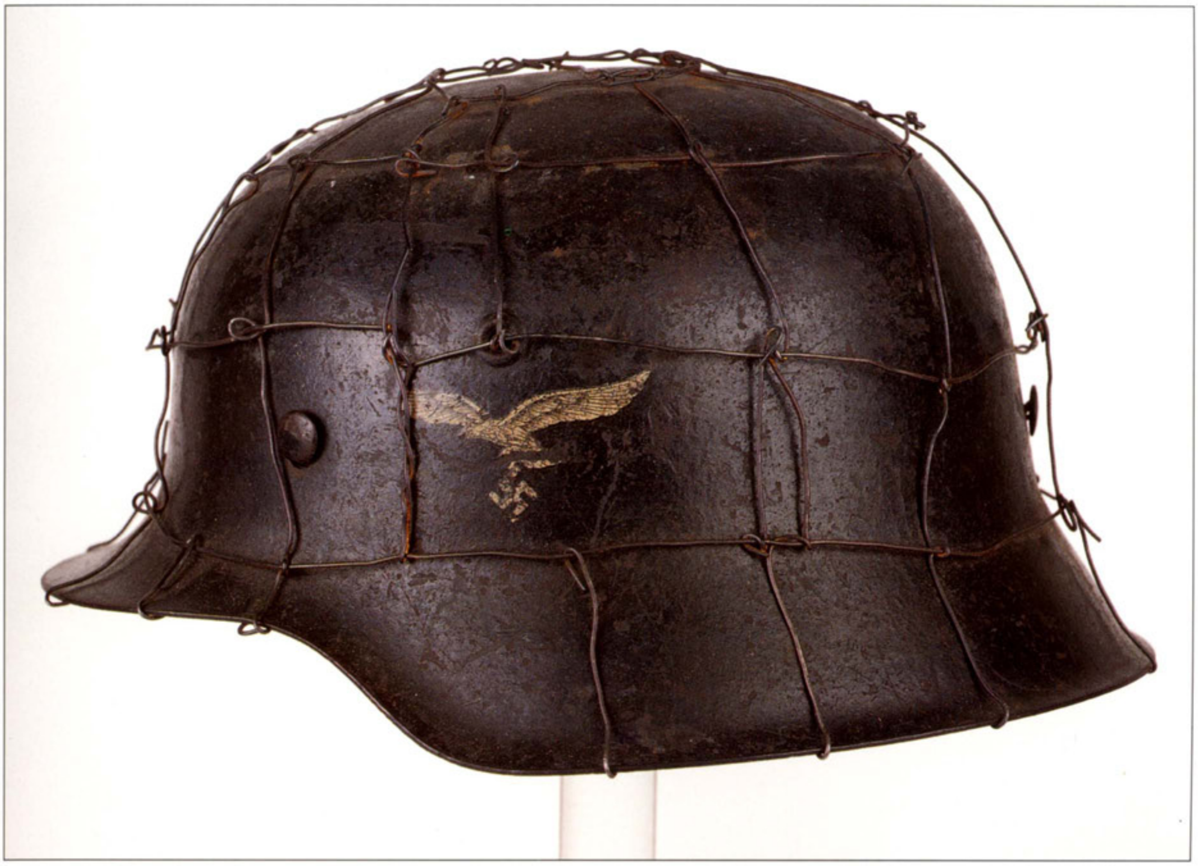


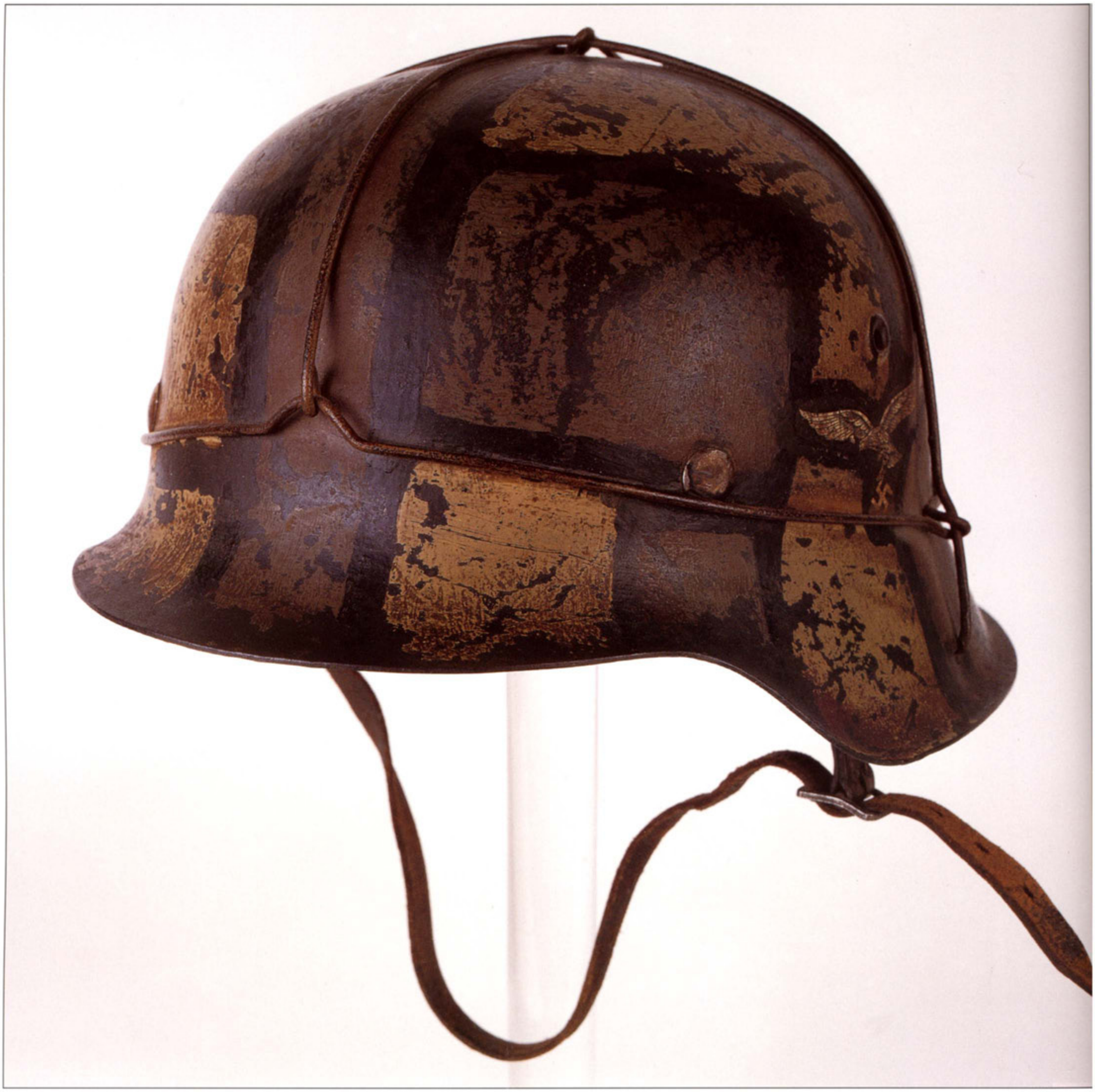




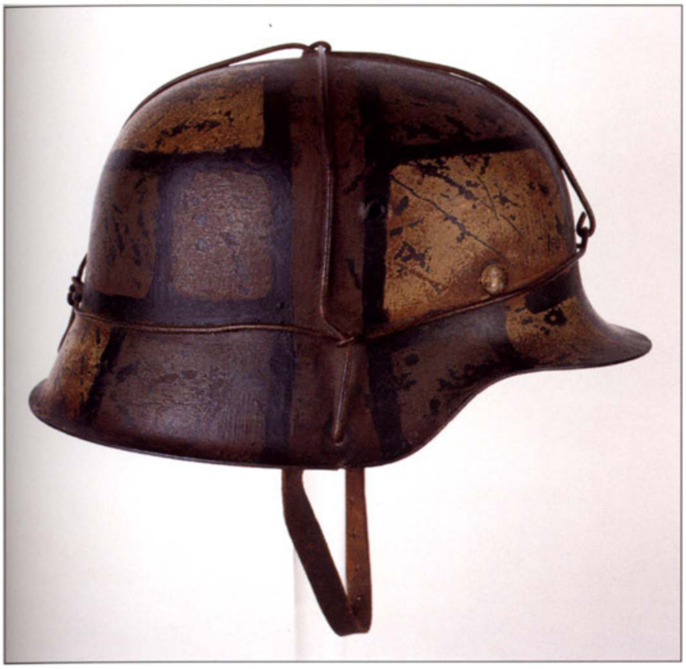
■ M42, with Luftwaffe second pattern eagle insignia, covered in an unusual arrangement using single strand wire, attached by thirteen hooks. (Collection of the author)

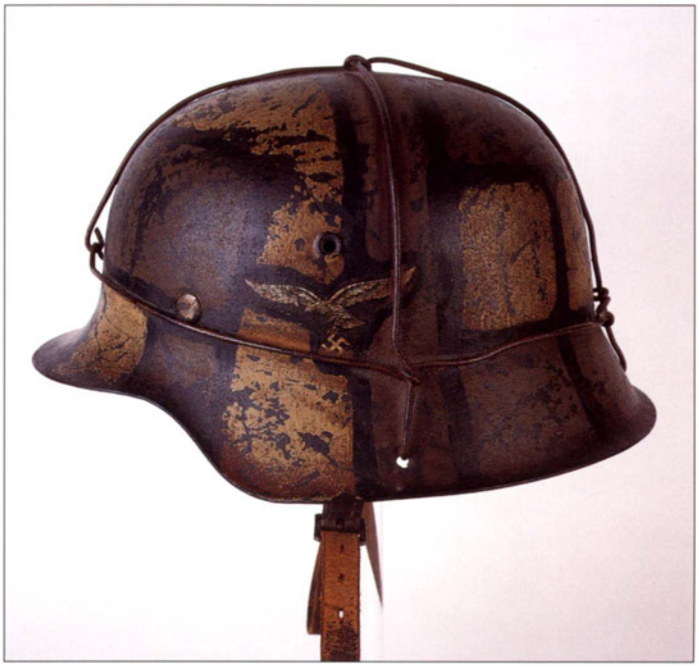


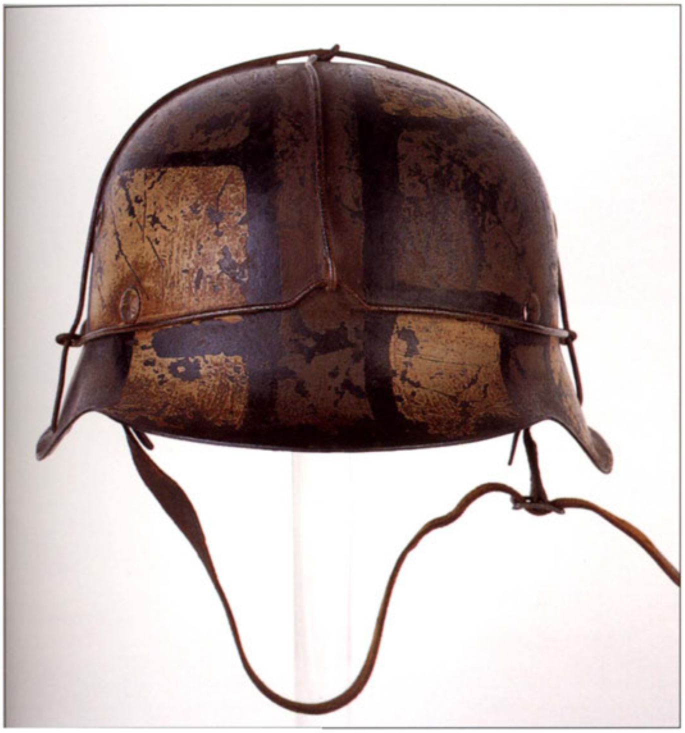


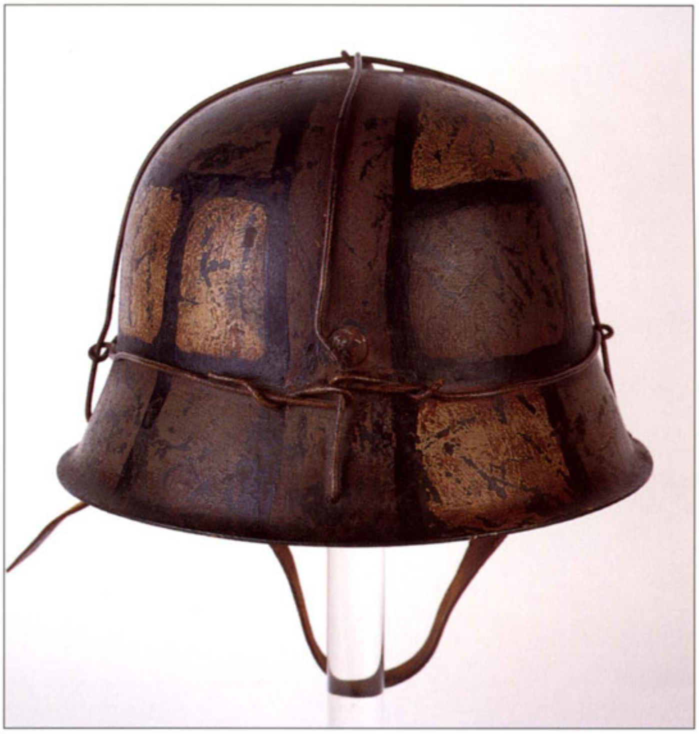


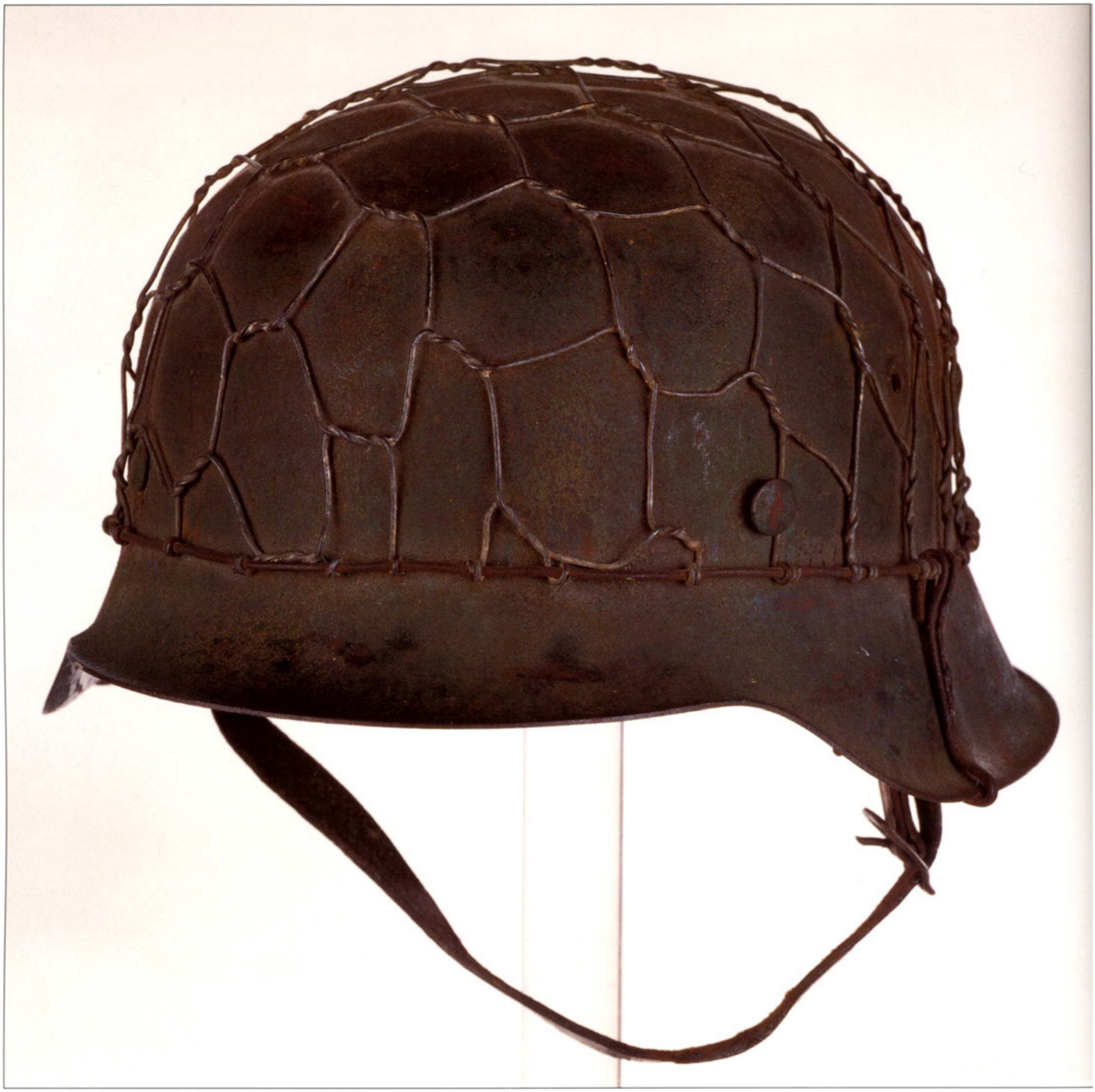
M42, camouflaged in World War I style tan and brown segments separated by black lines, over-sprayed with patches of red-brown. The Luftwaffe second pattern eagle insignia has been outlined in black. The whole is covered by a wire arrangement made up of three pieces of single strand wire, the ends of which are attached through holes drilled through the shell. (Collection of John Burnett)



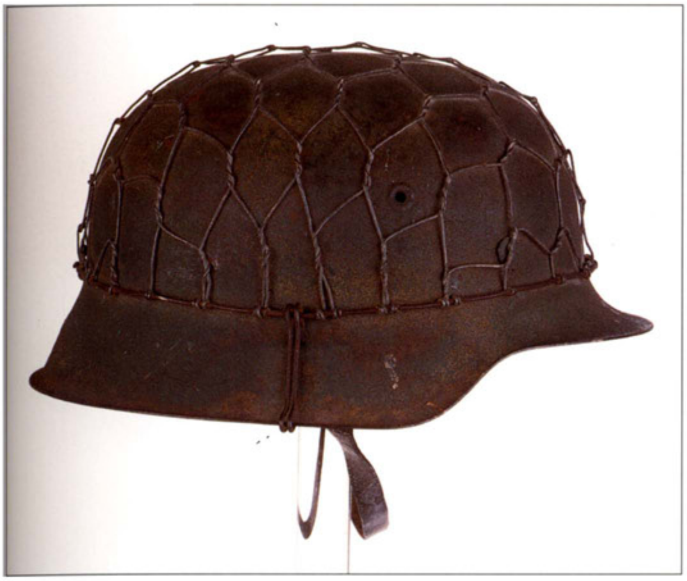


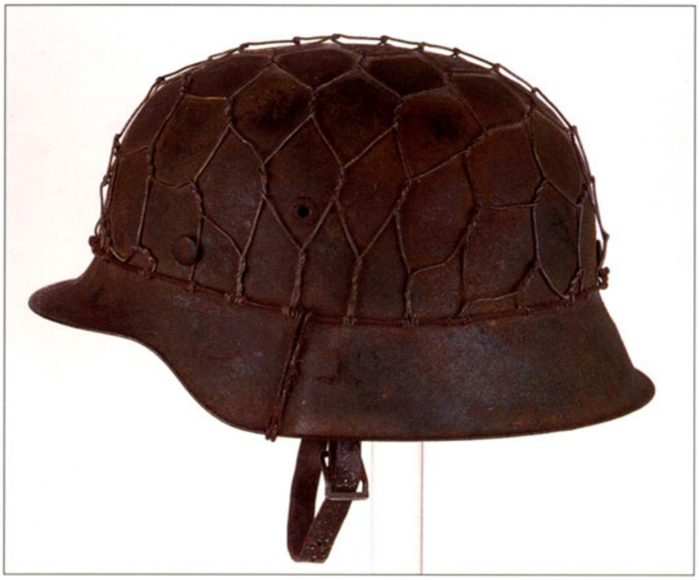


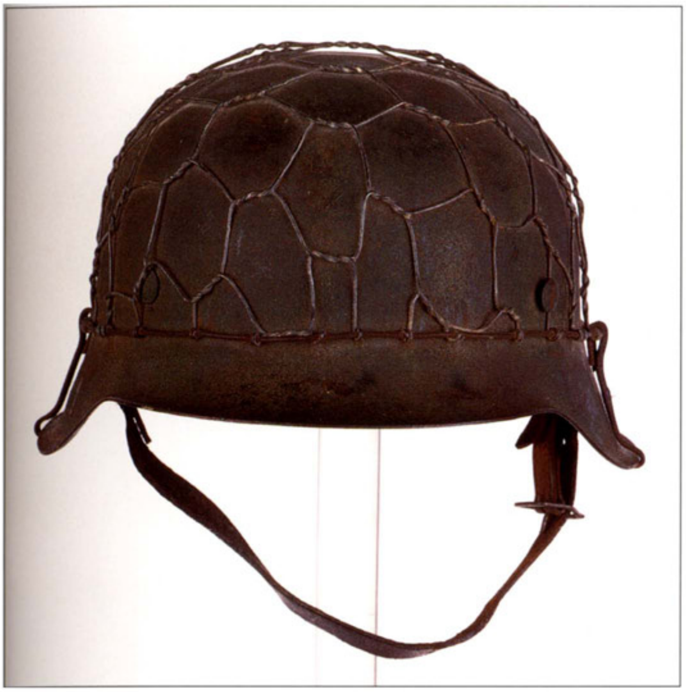


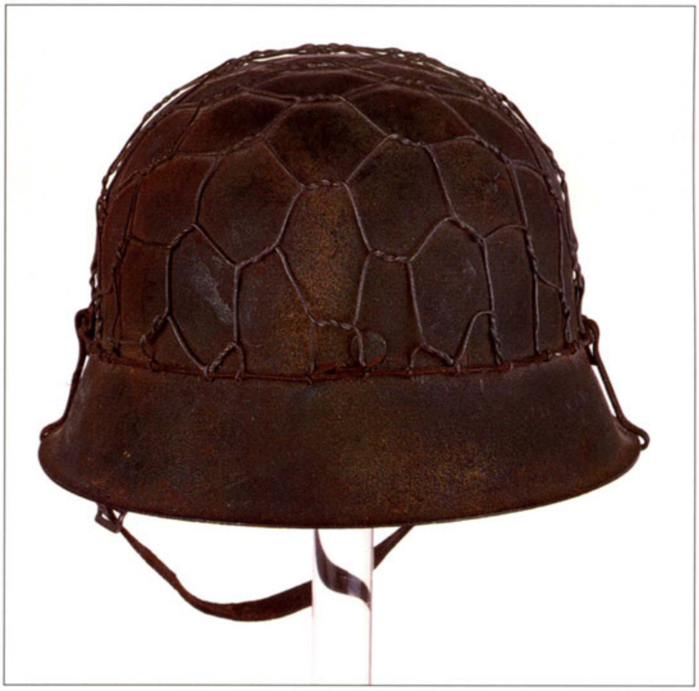


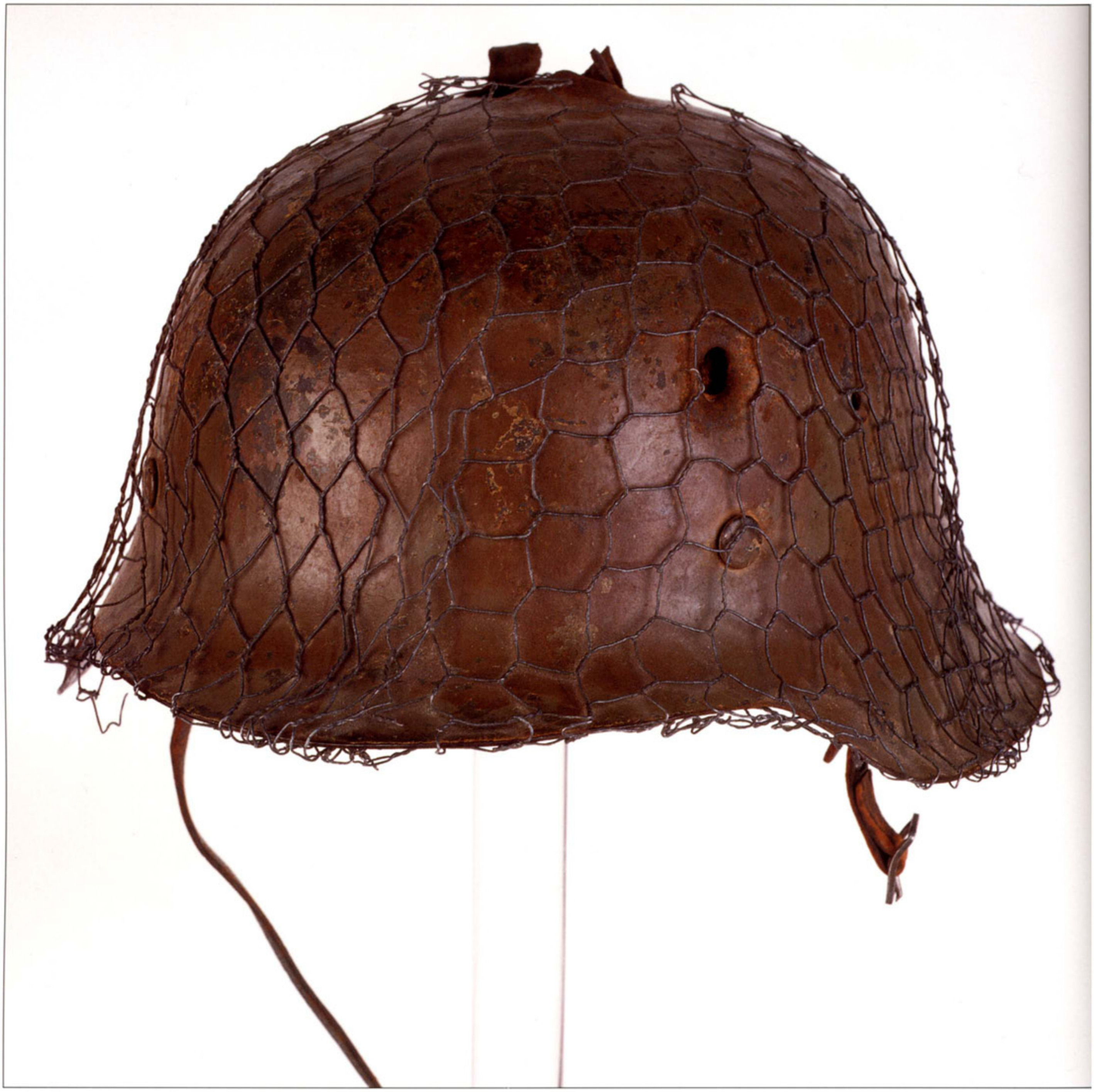
■ M42, camouflaged in tan over-sprayed in green and covered by light-gauge medium-weave chicken wire, gathered with a single strand of wire and attached by two hooks. (Collection Chris Jones)



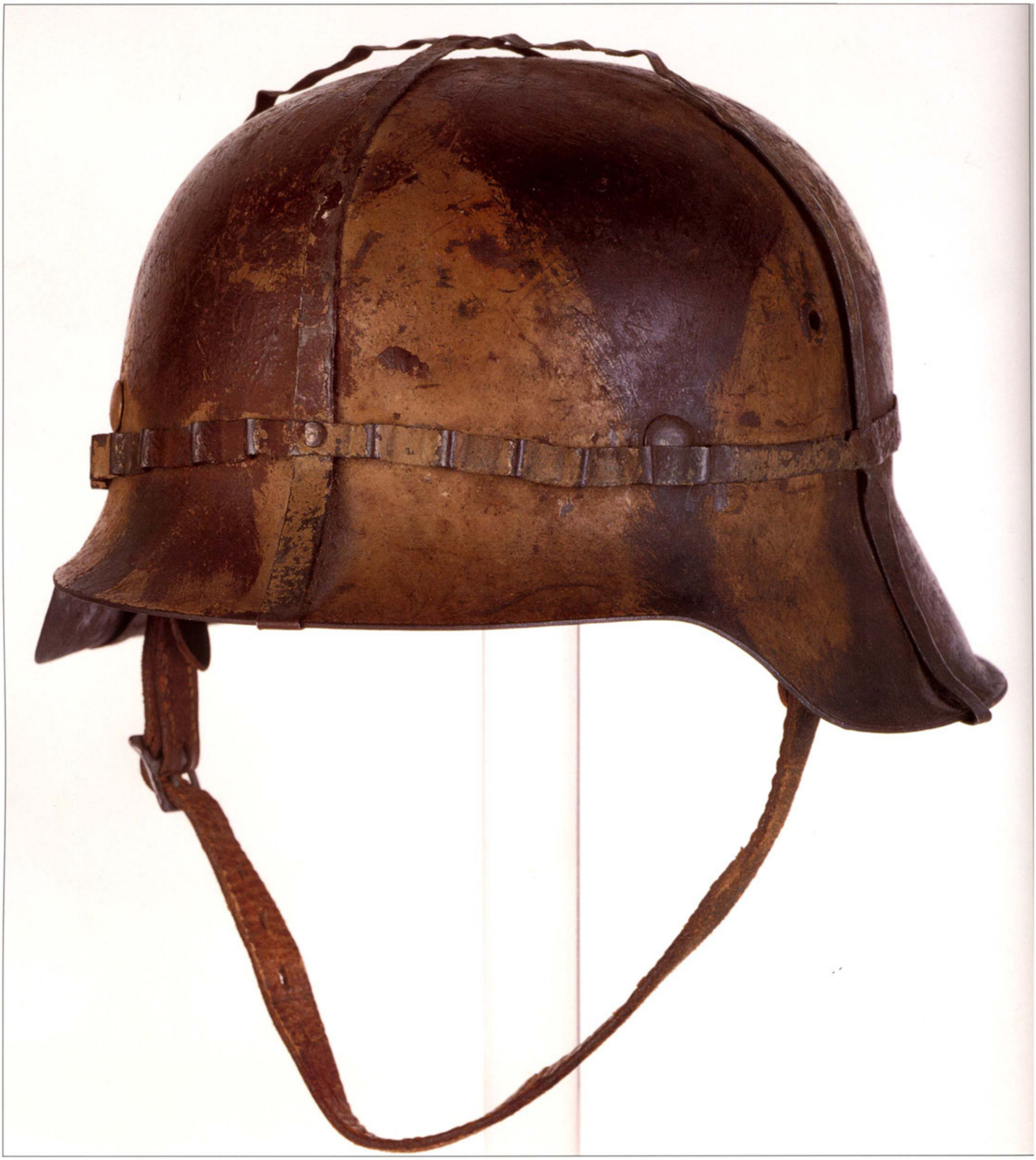




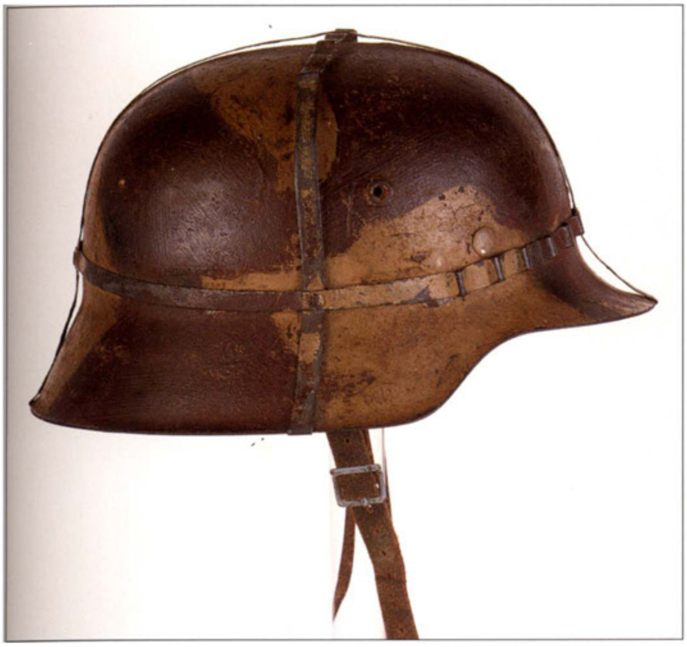


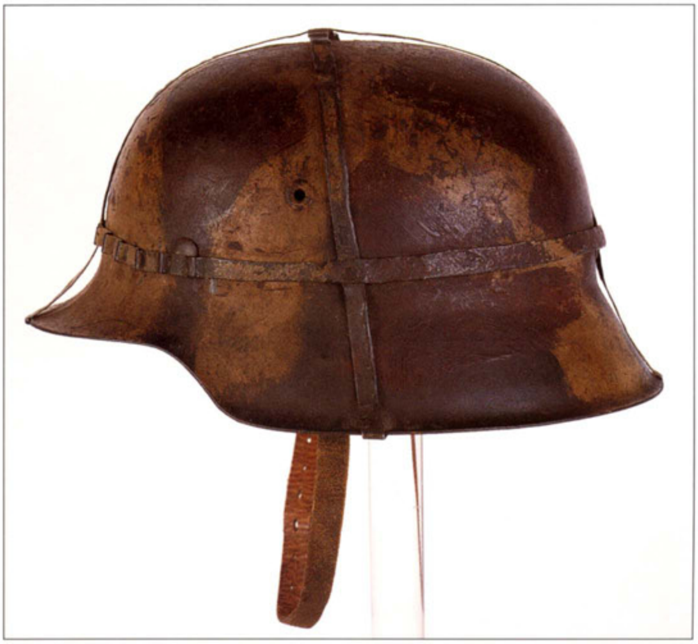


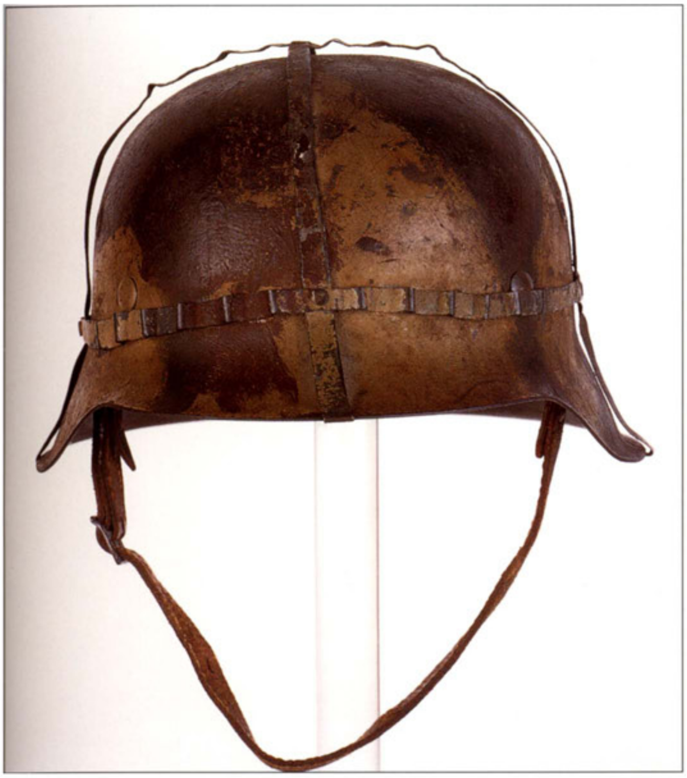
Battle-damaged M42, camouflaged in khaki and brown and covered in covered in light-gauge very close-weave chicken wire. Captured in Stavelot, Ardennes, Belgium. (Collection Chris Jones)

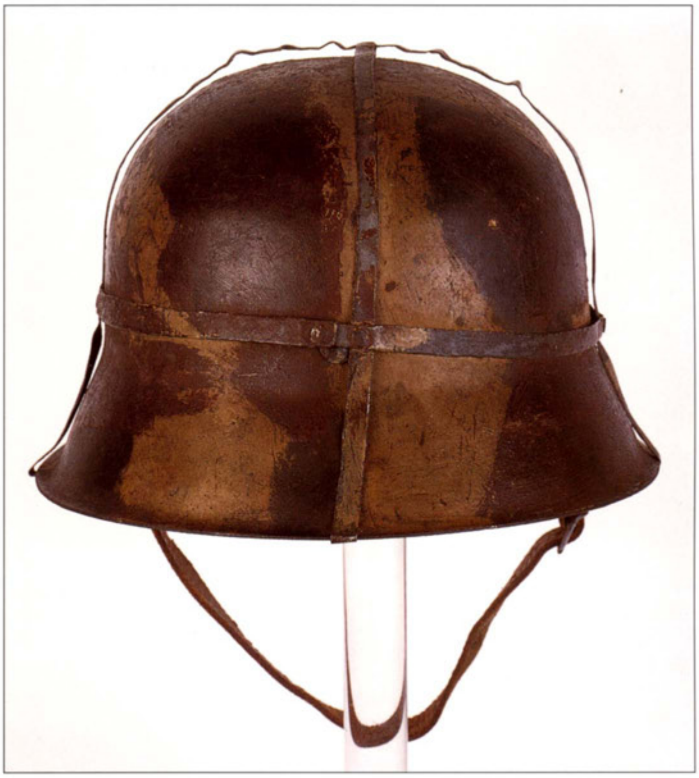


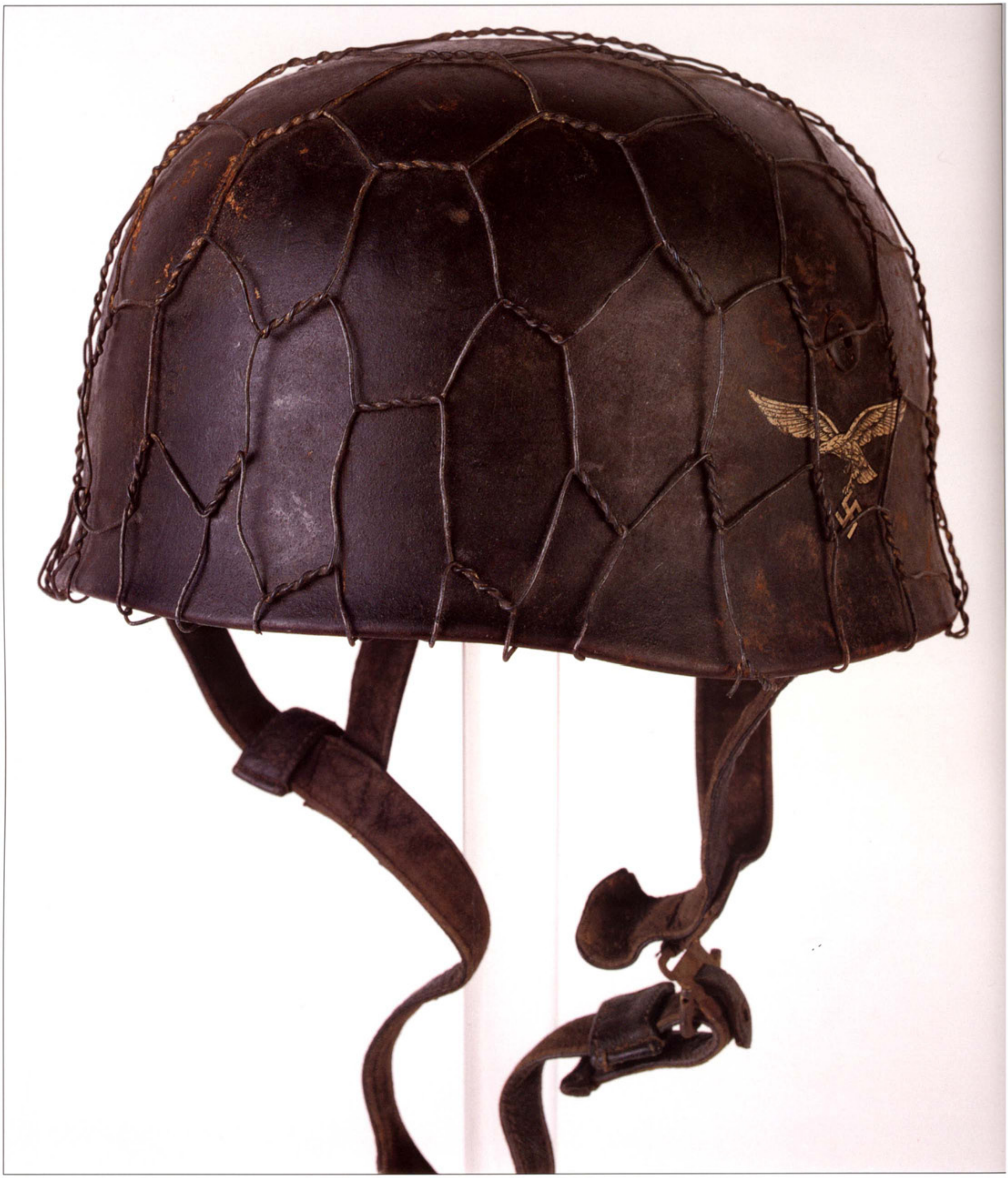
M42, camouflaged in tan, green and brown painted over a cage of corrugated flat metal strips. Captured in the Caen-Falaise area of Normandy, France. (Collection Chris Jones)



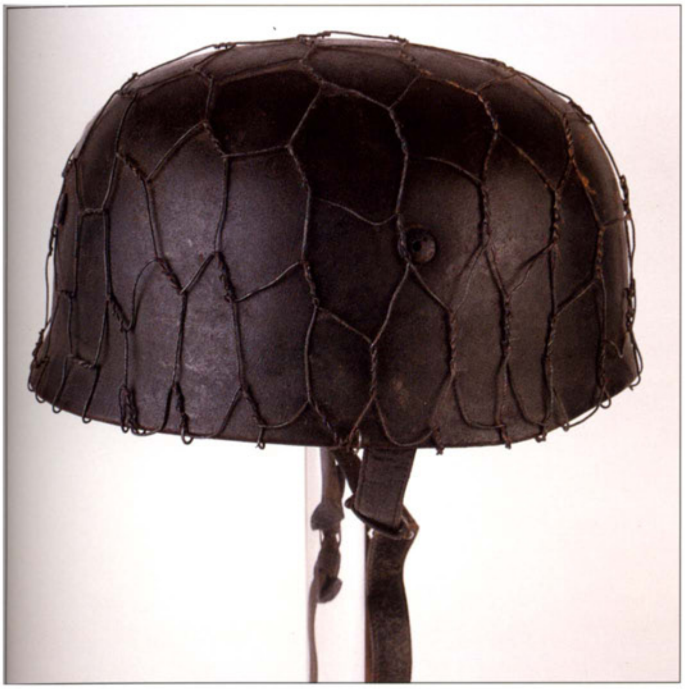


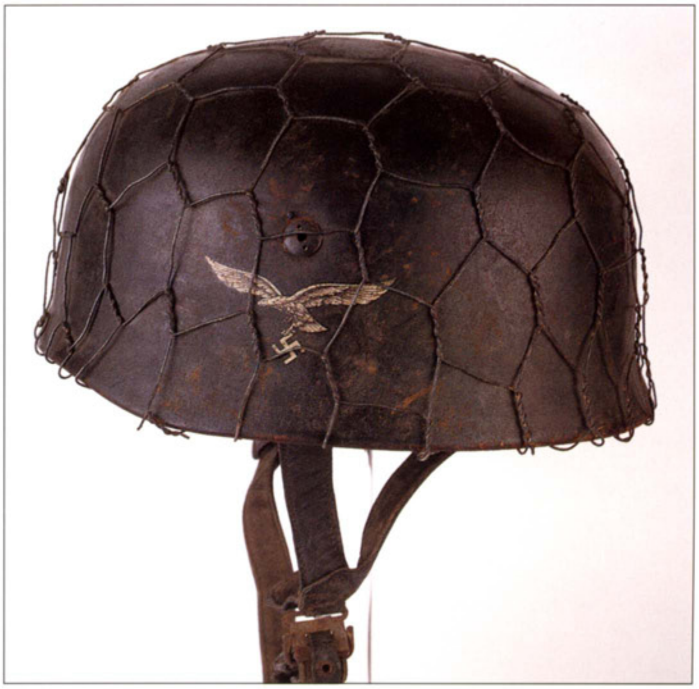


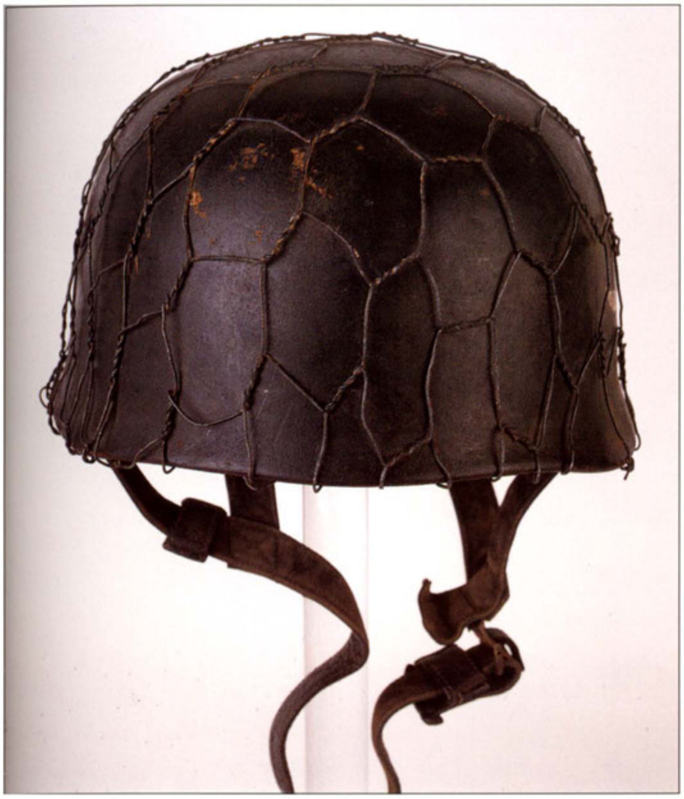


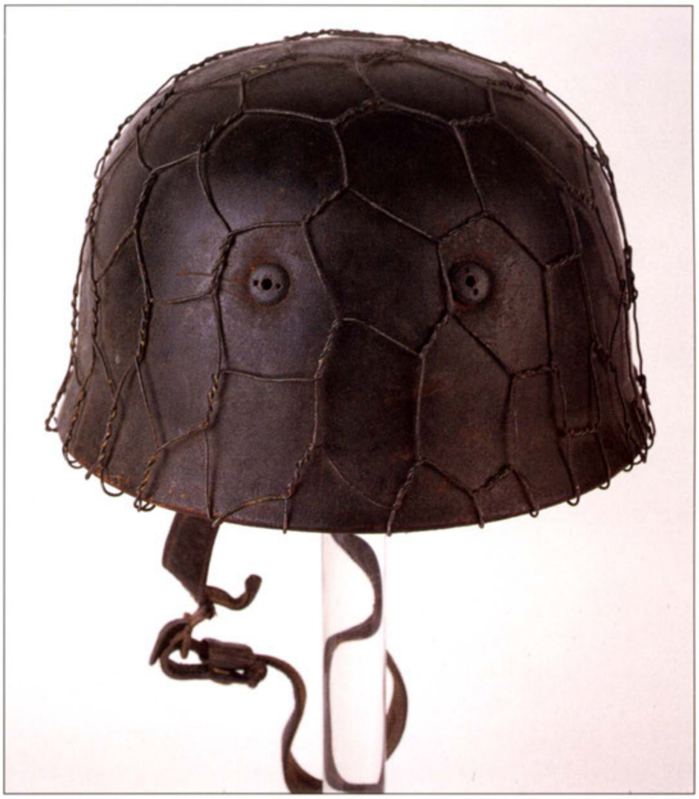


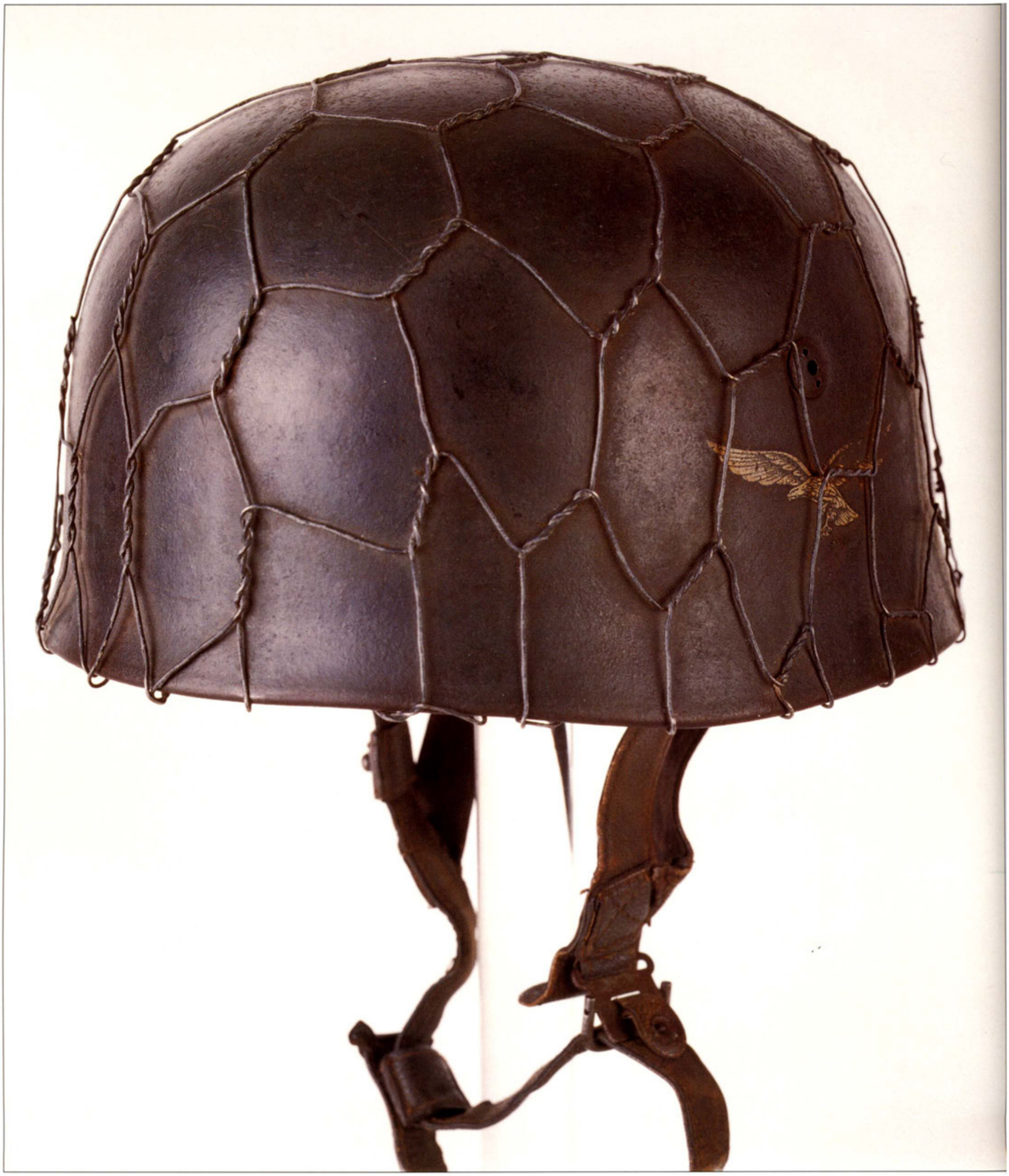
M38, with Luftwaffe second pattern eagle insignia, covered in light-gauge medium-weave chicken wire. (Collection of John Burnett)



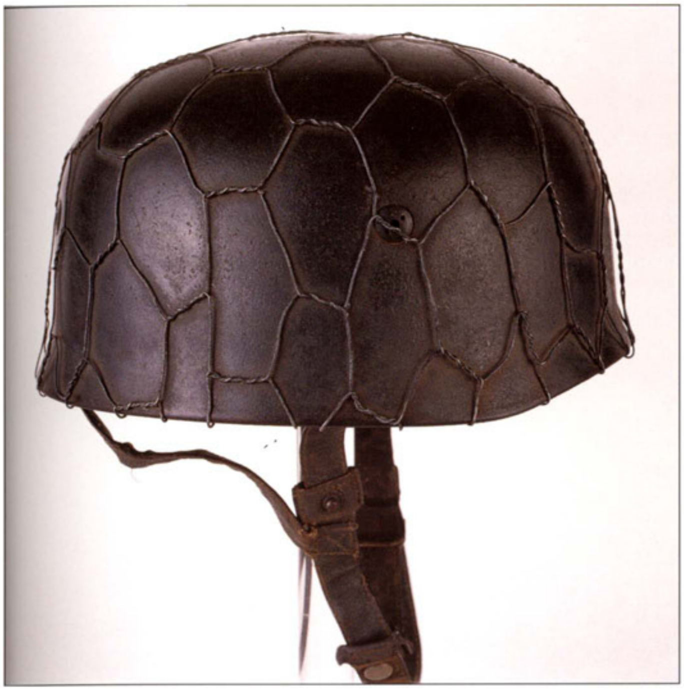


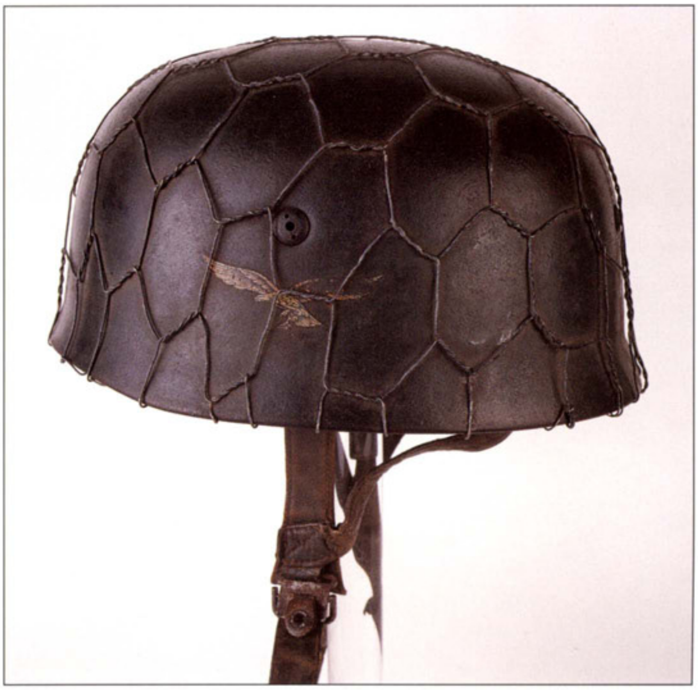


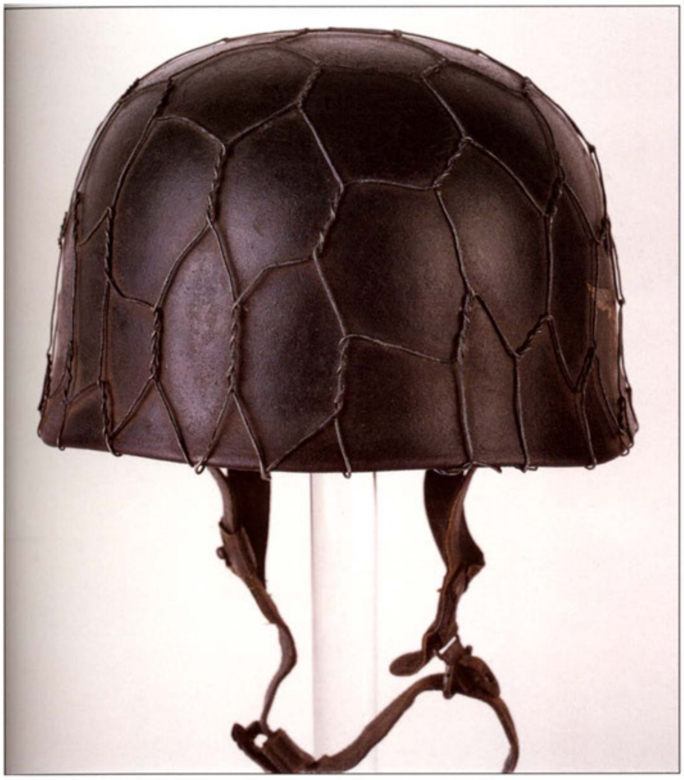


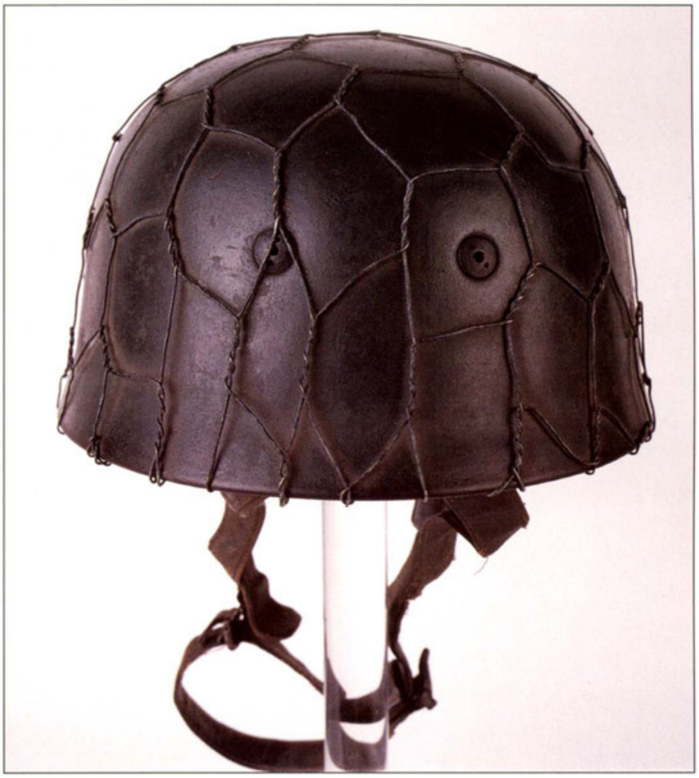


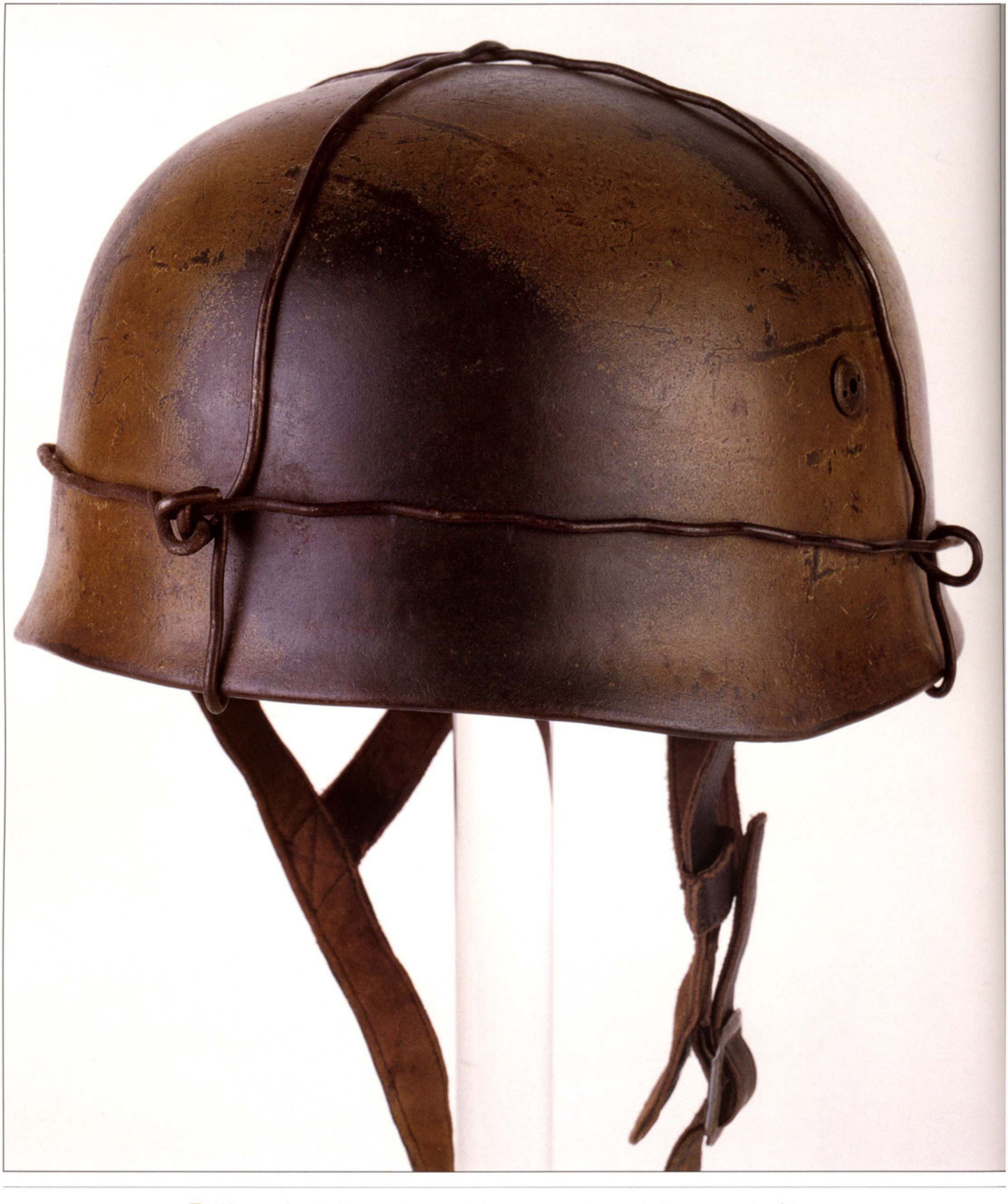
■ M38, with Luftwaffe second pattern eagle insignia, covered in light-gauge open-weave chicken wire. (Collection of John Burnett)



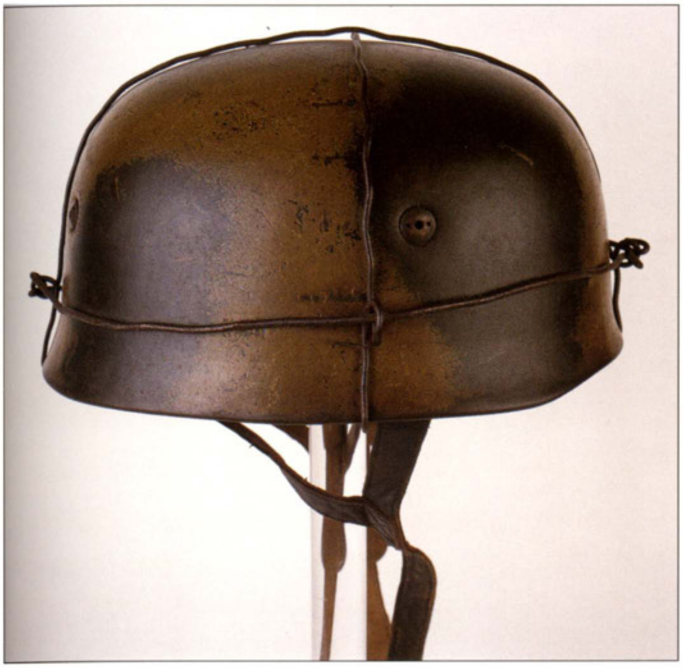


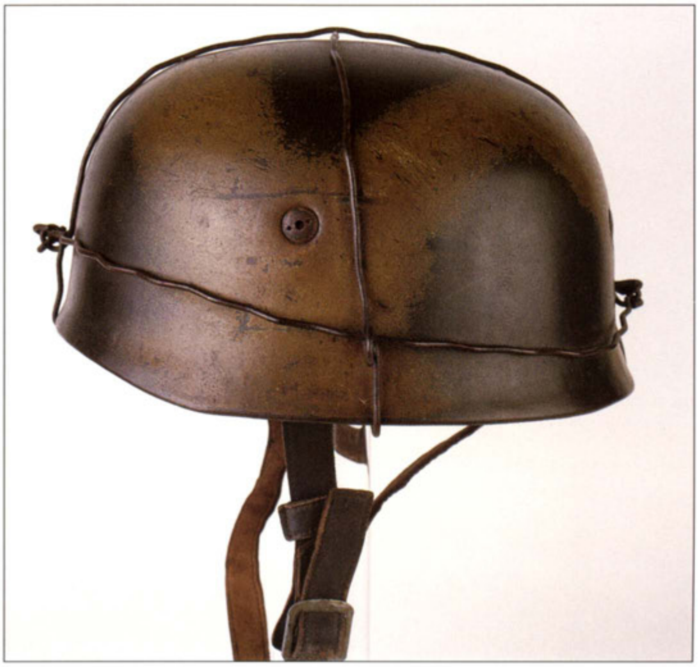


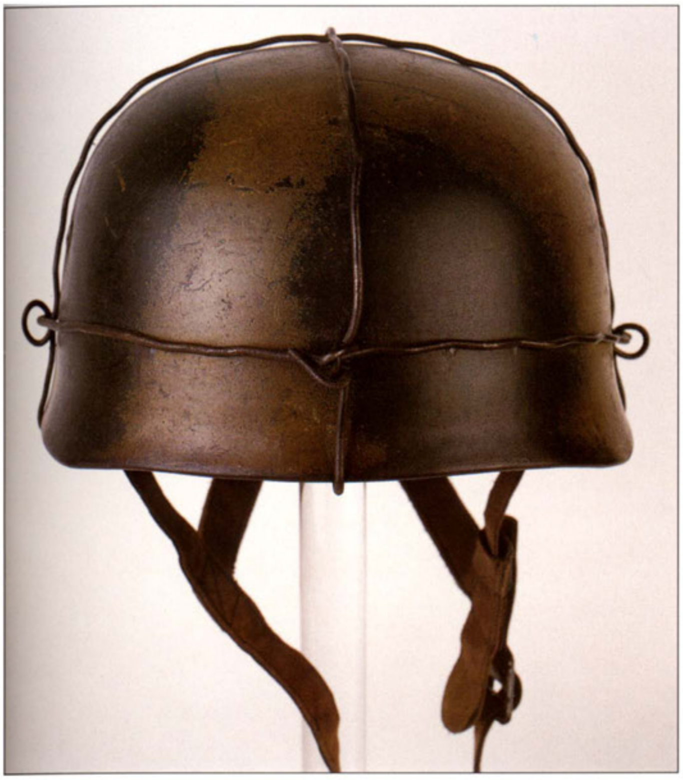


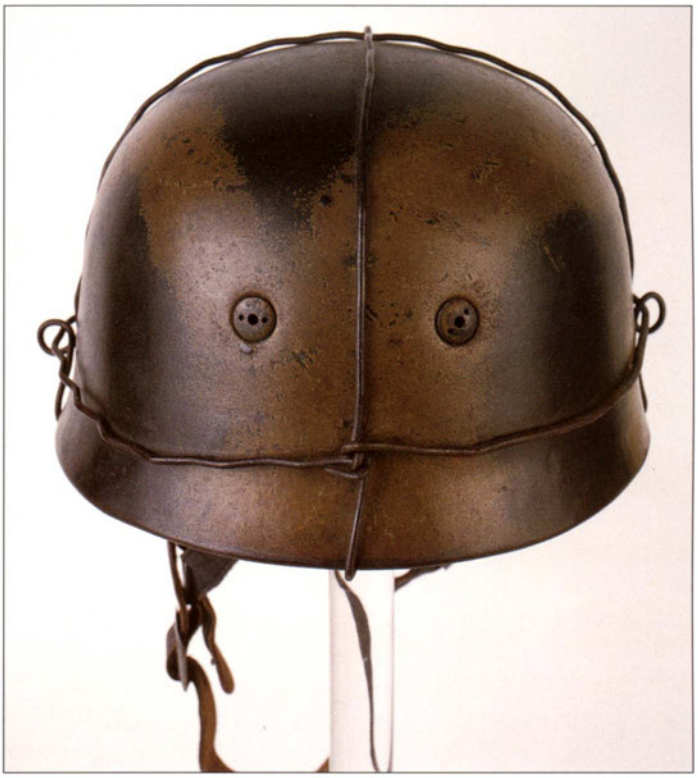


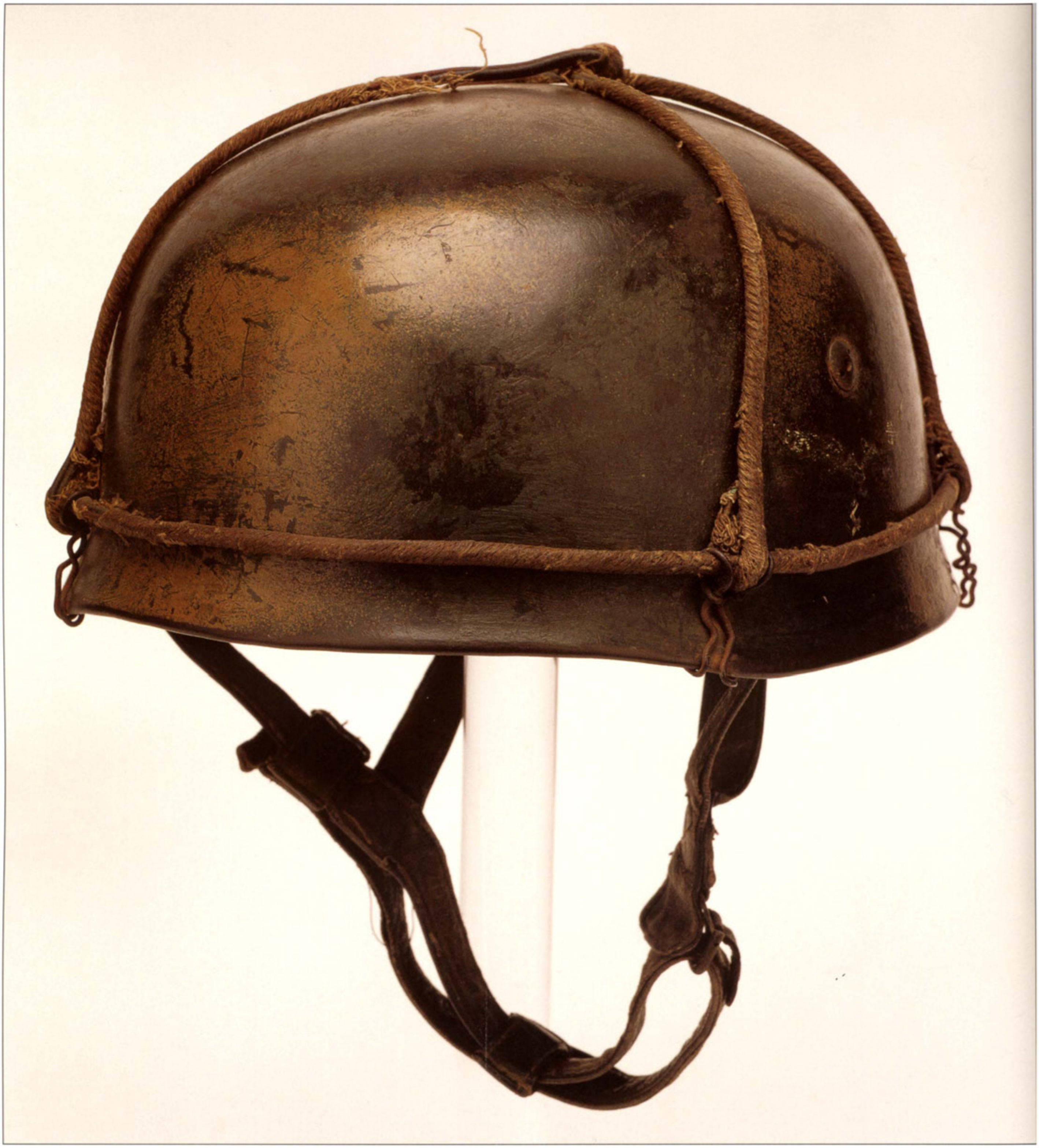
M38, camouflaged with tan stripes over dark grey-green and covered with a cage made of three pieces of corrugated single strand wire, attached by four hooks. (Collection of John Burnett)



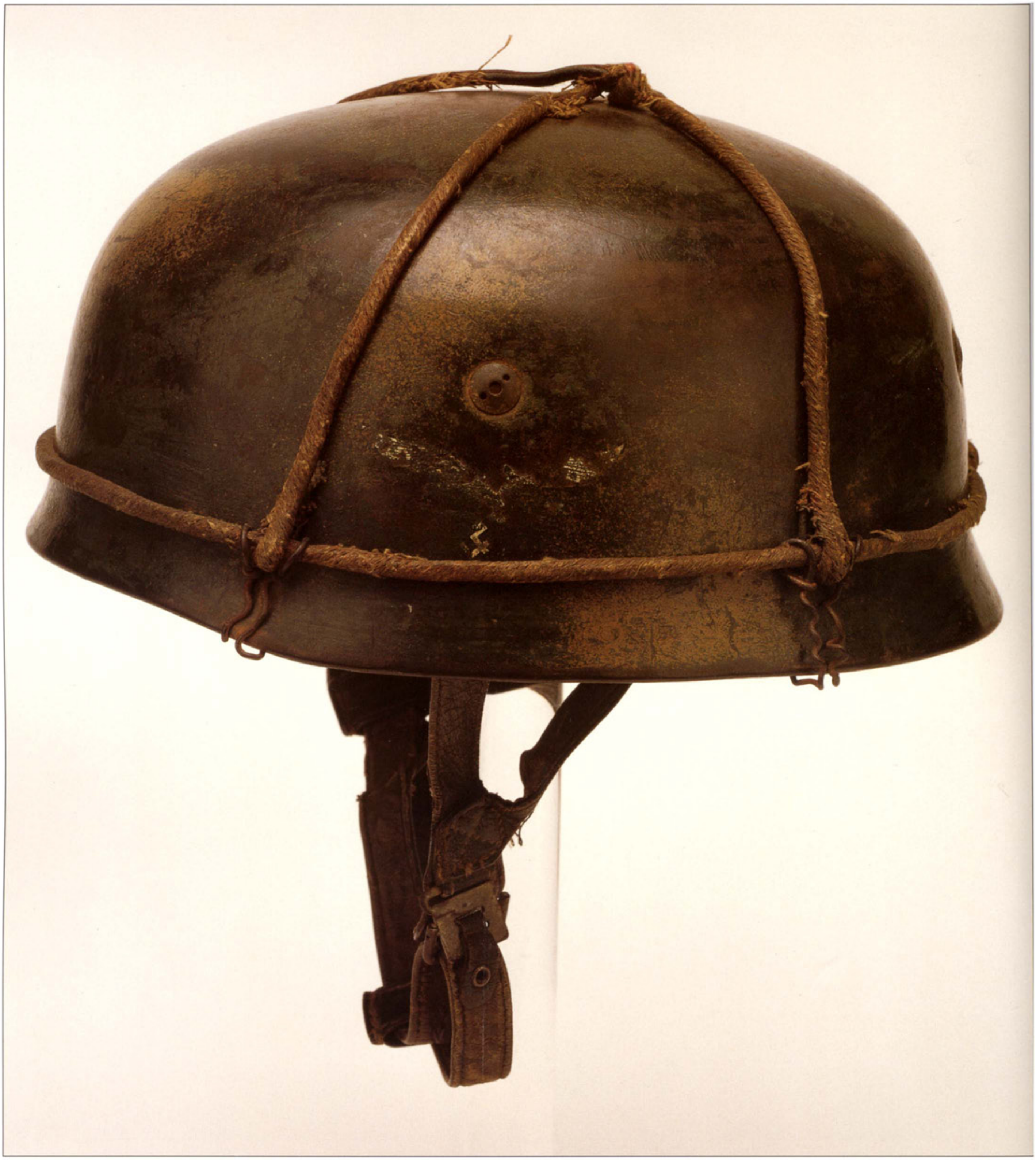


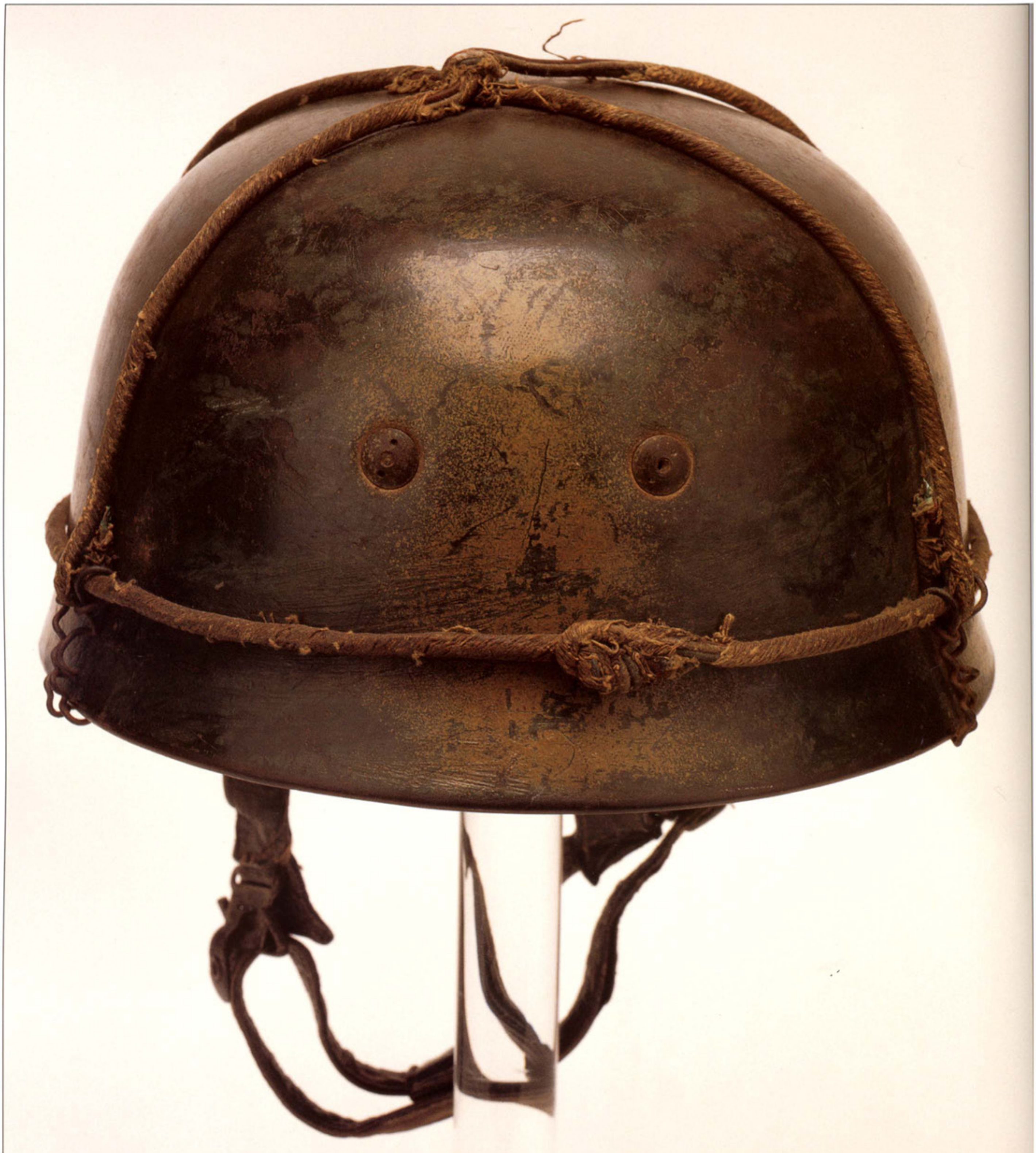


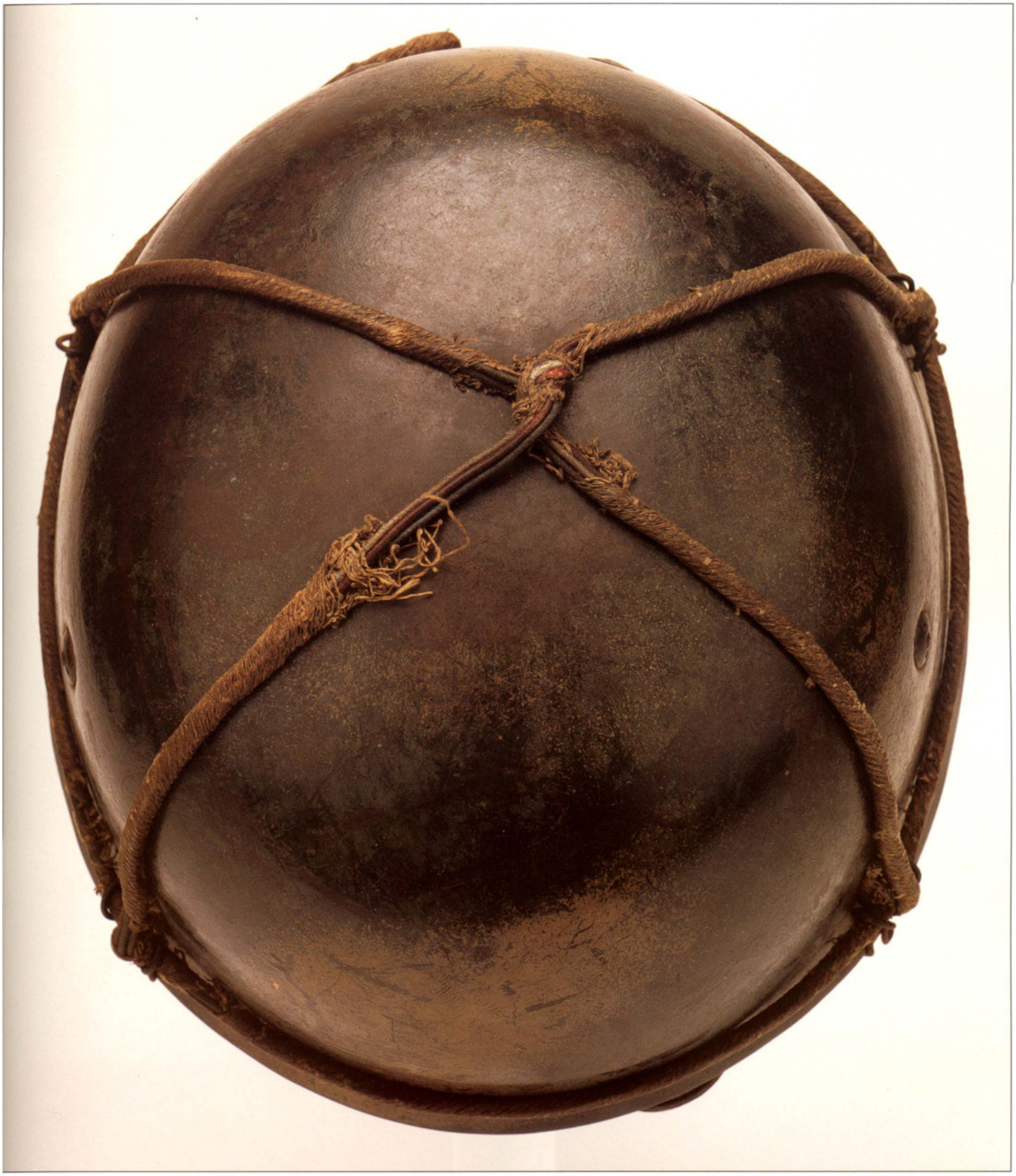




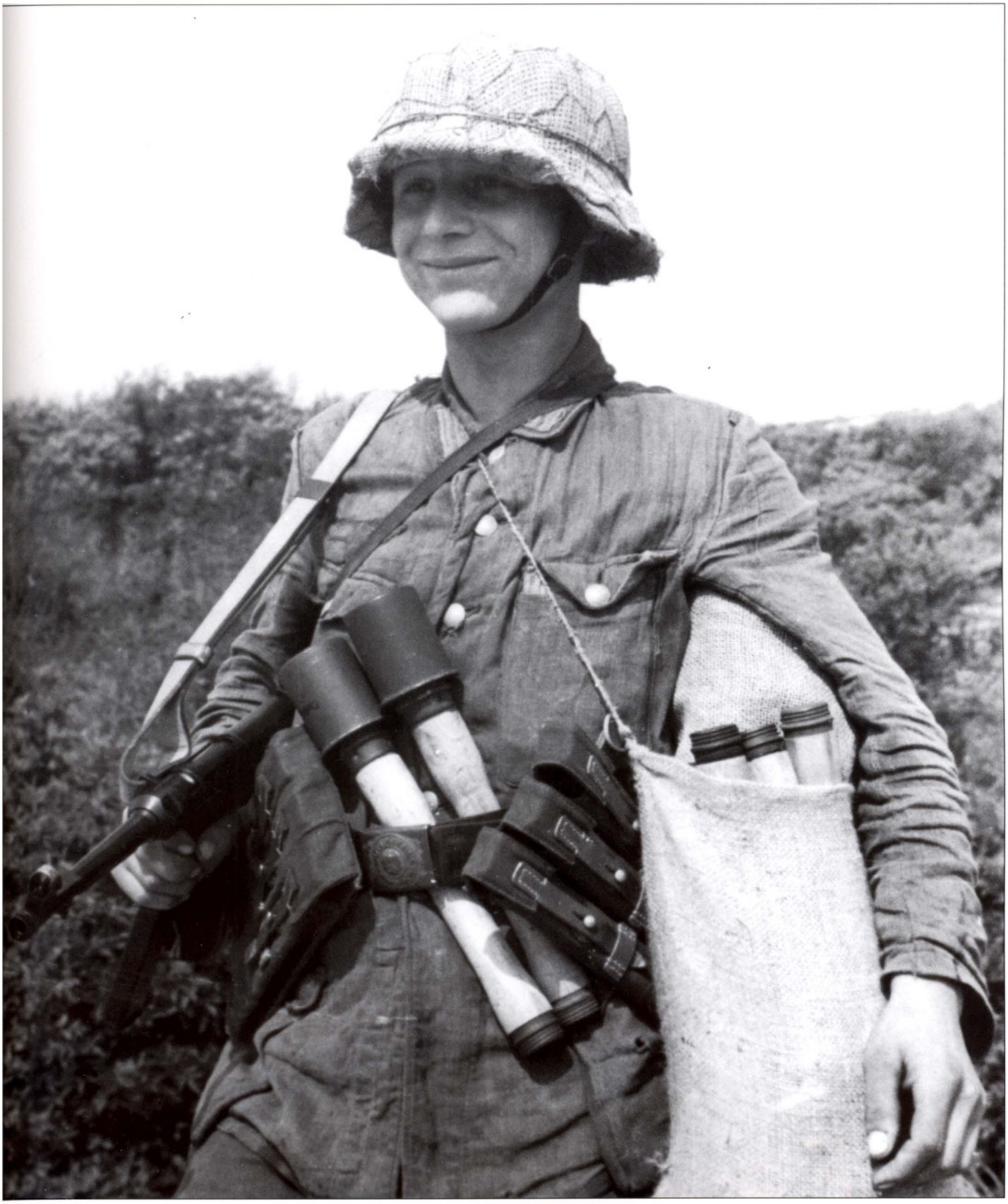
■ M38, camouflaged in green and tan, with remains of the Luftwaffe second pattern eagle insignia visible under the paint. It has an unusual wire arrangement made of cloth-covered electrical cable (telephone?) and attached by four hooks. (Collection of Malcolm Fisher - Regimentals)



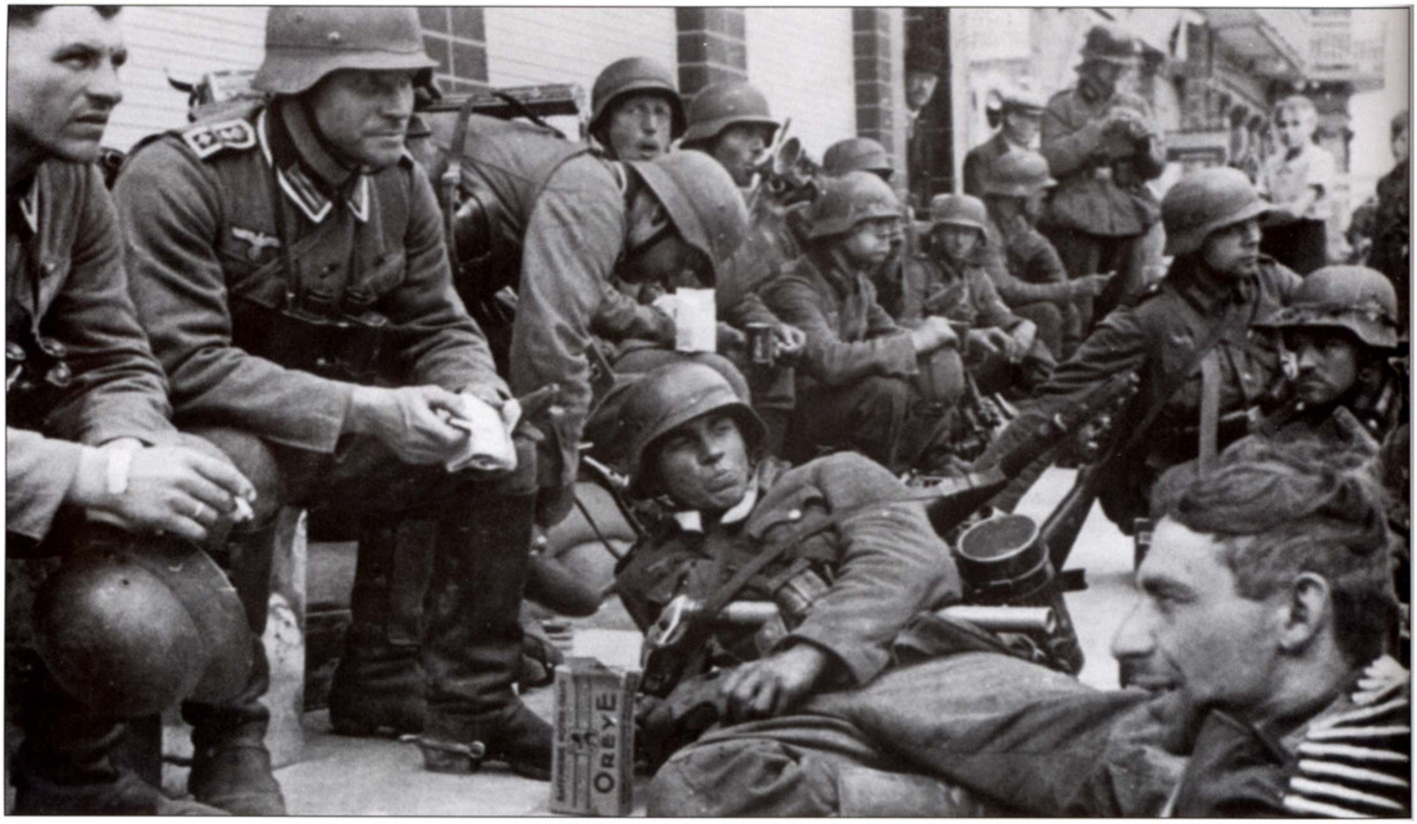


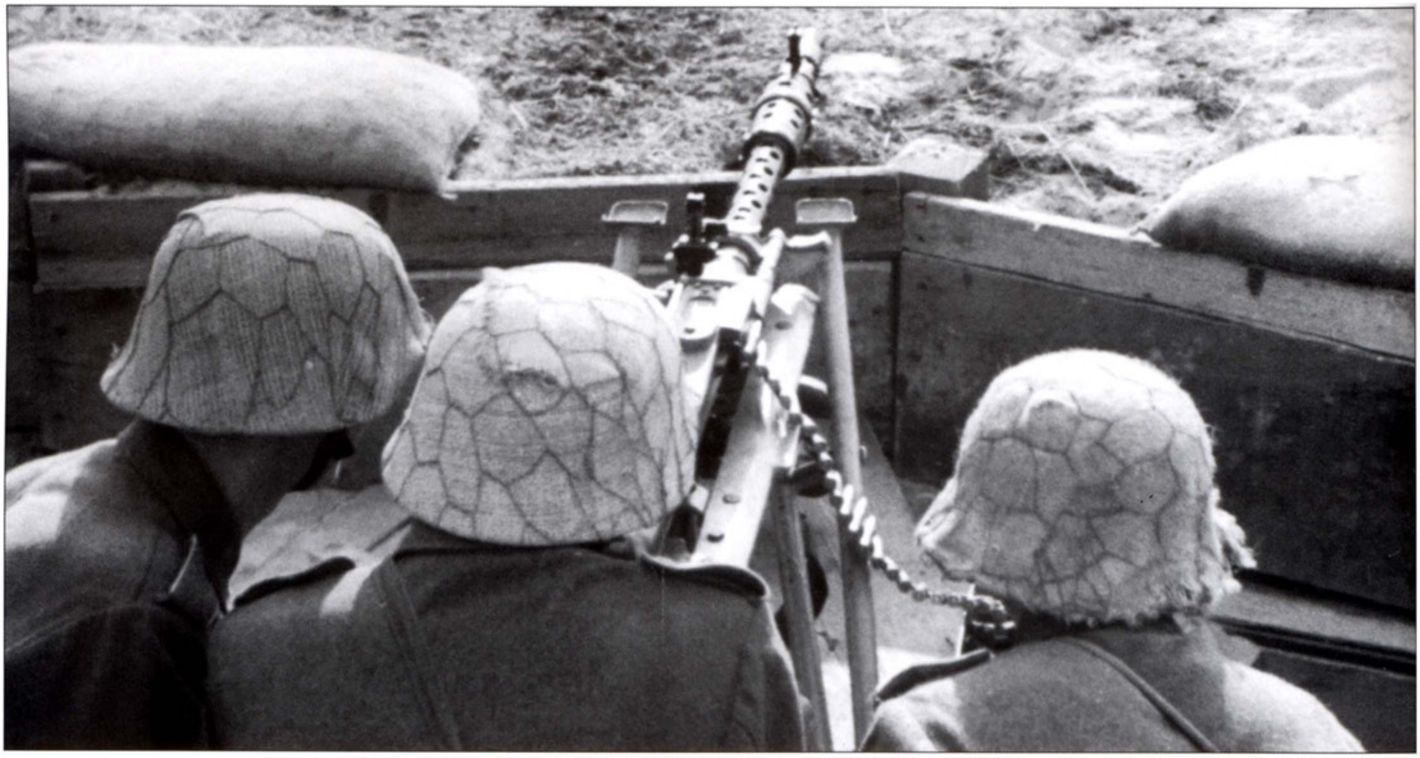


Period Photos



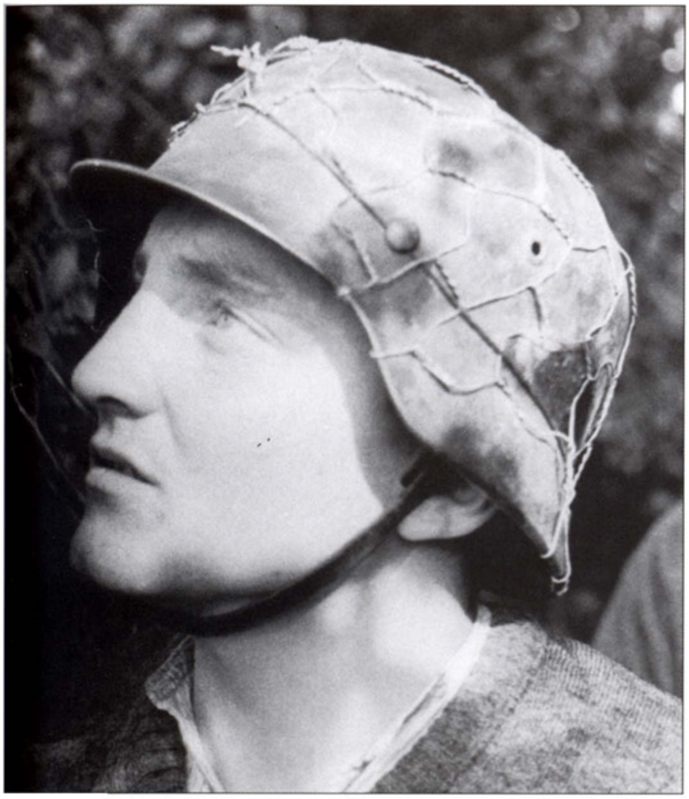
This man in North Africa has applied thin-gauge chicken wire over a roughly made hessian cover. *(BA)*

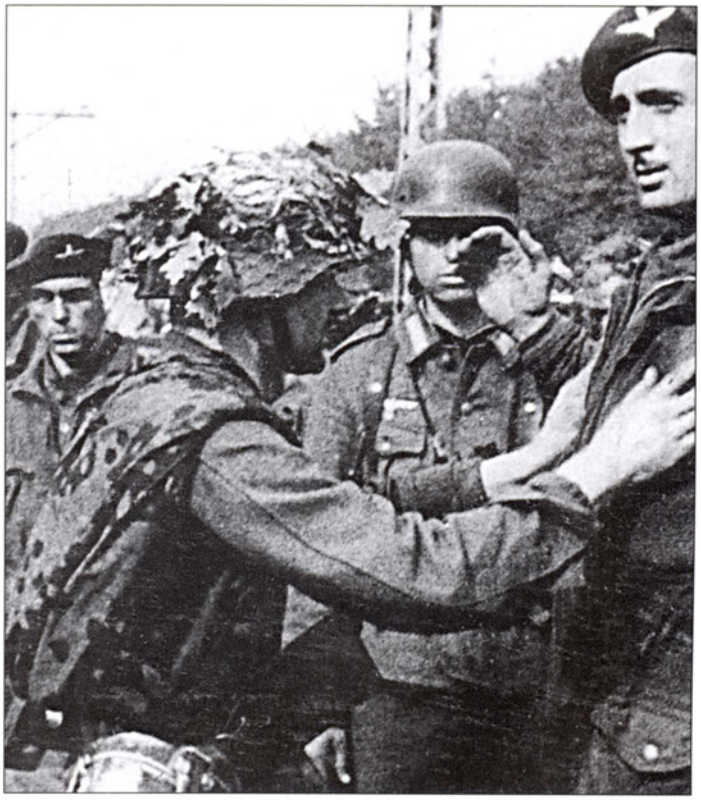


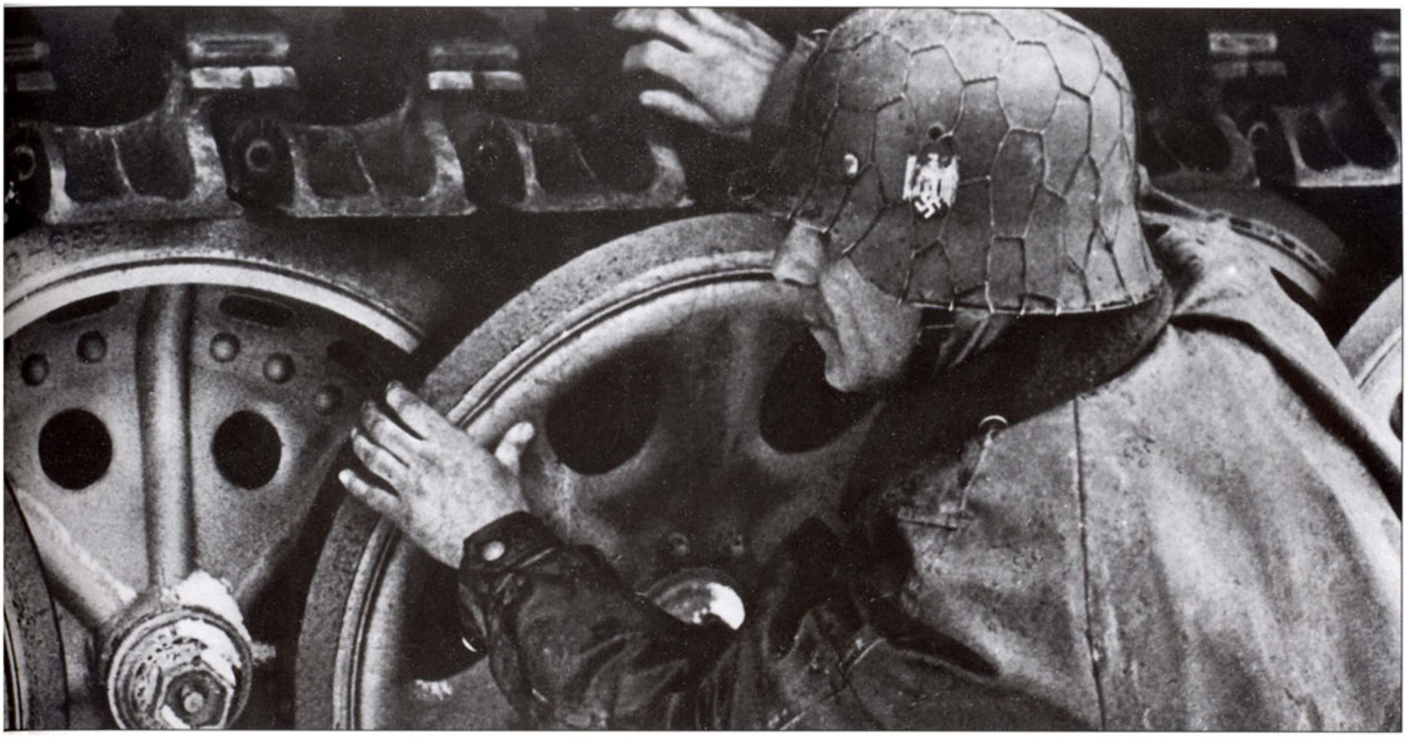


- Top: Infantrymen, seen here during the 1940 Blitzkrieg pausing for refreshment. They have used various methods to hold camouflage. Rubber tubing seems to be the most popular, but several variations of the use of wire can be seen. *(Author)*

- Bottom: An MG34 team on a beach in North Africa during anti-invasion exercises, wearing hessian covers under chicken wire. *(BA)*



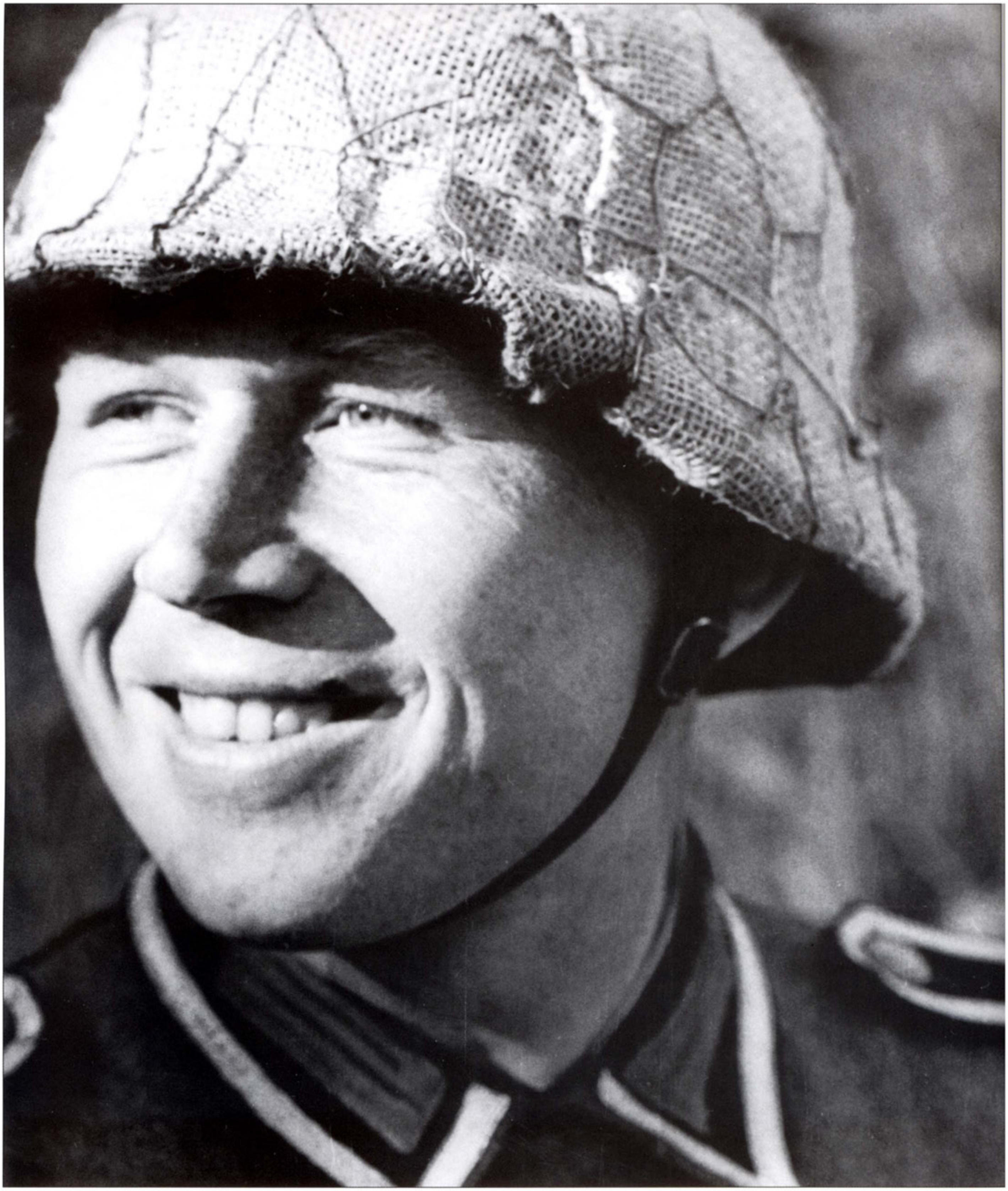




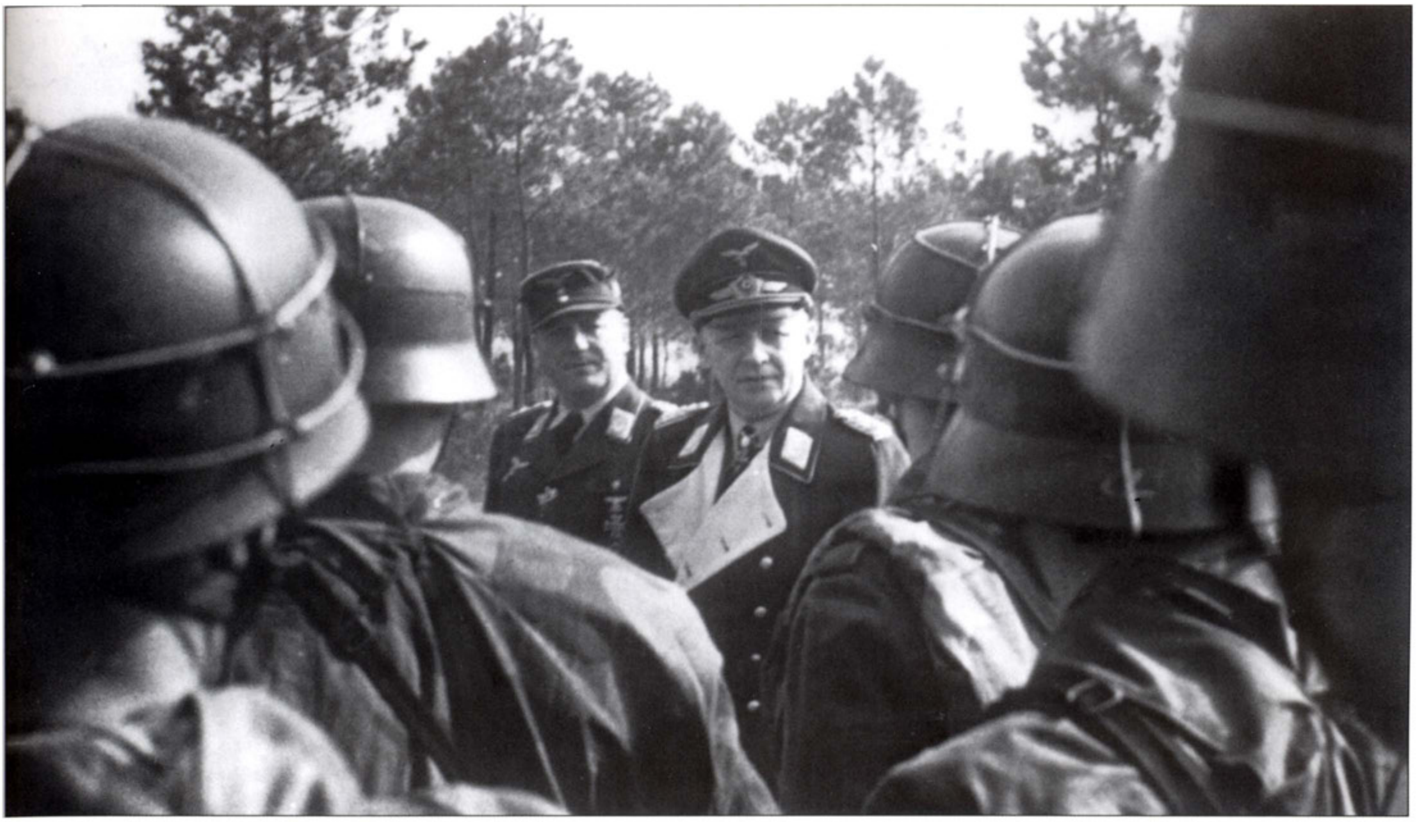
Top left: The dappled sunlight blends well with the patch camouflage paint scheme applied to this M40. No doubt, Allied air superiority over Normandy has prompted the application of chicken wire to break up further the outline of his helmet. *(BA)*

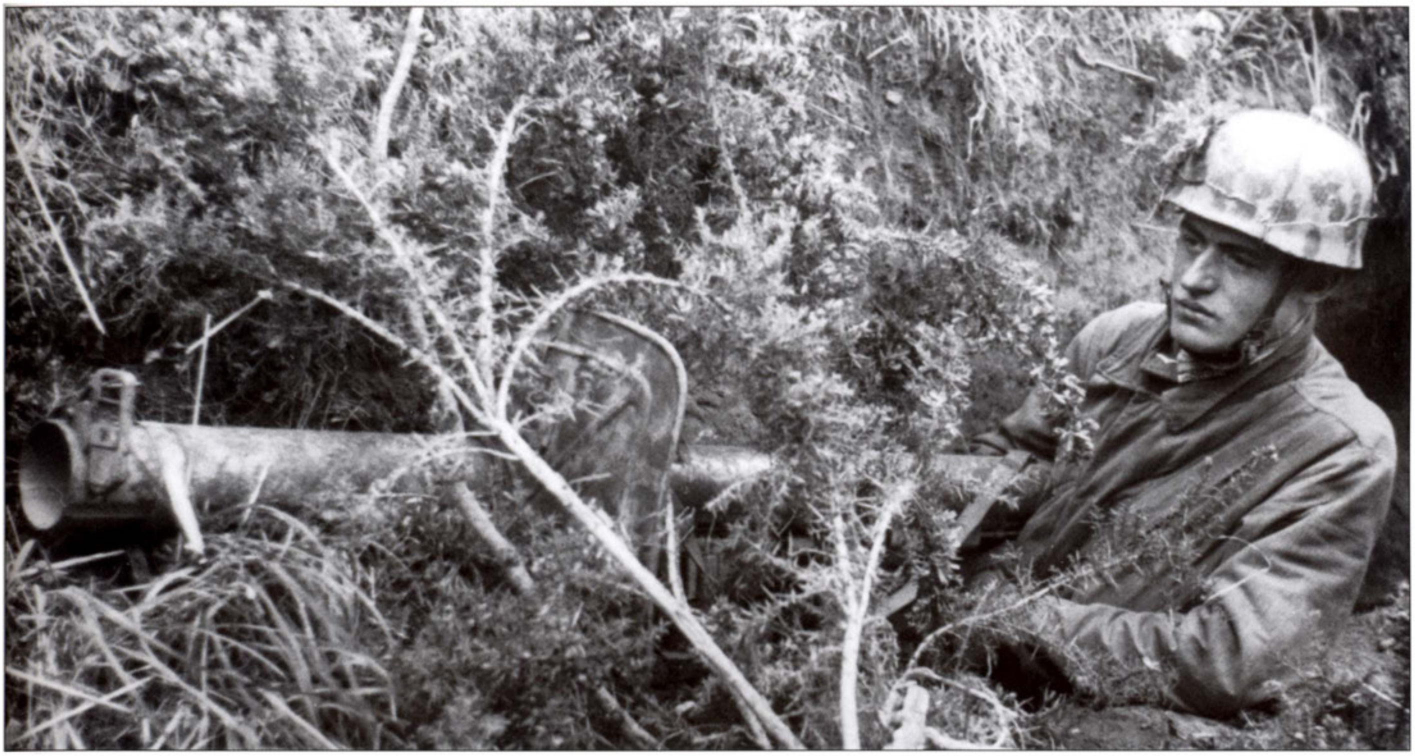
Top right: This Waffen-SS man is searching captured British paratroopers on the railway line in Arnhem in September 1944. His helmet has a complete covering of chicken wire with sprigs of oak leaves inserted. *(Author)*

Bottom: This man is wearing his M42 helmet with a complete covering of chicken wire. Noting the snow on the wheel, if he decided to camouflage his helmet, would he bother to remove the chicken wire? *(Author)*



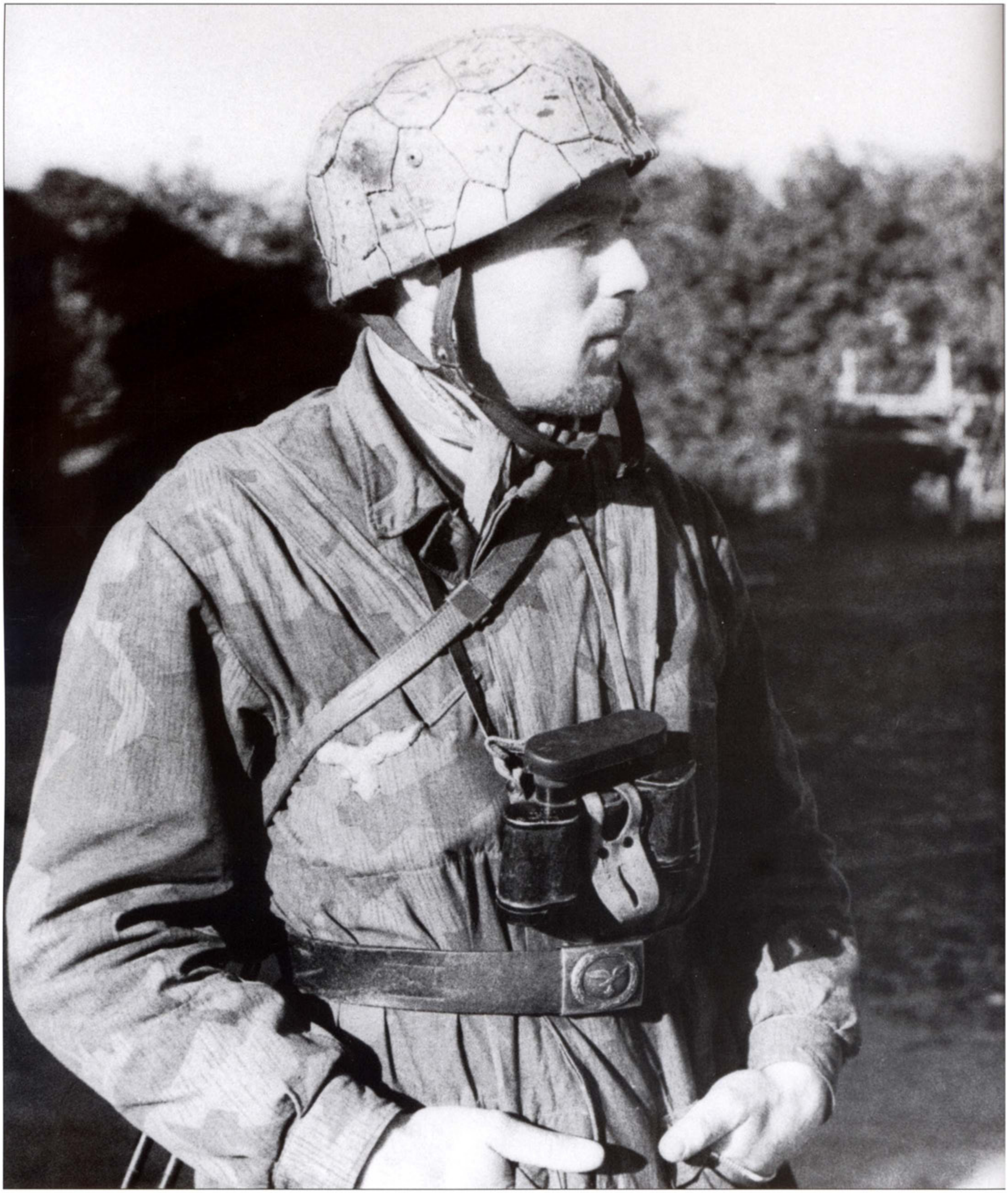
A good close-up of hessian sacking worn under chicken wire. *(BA)*



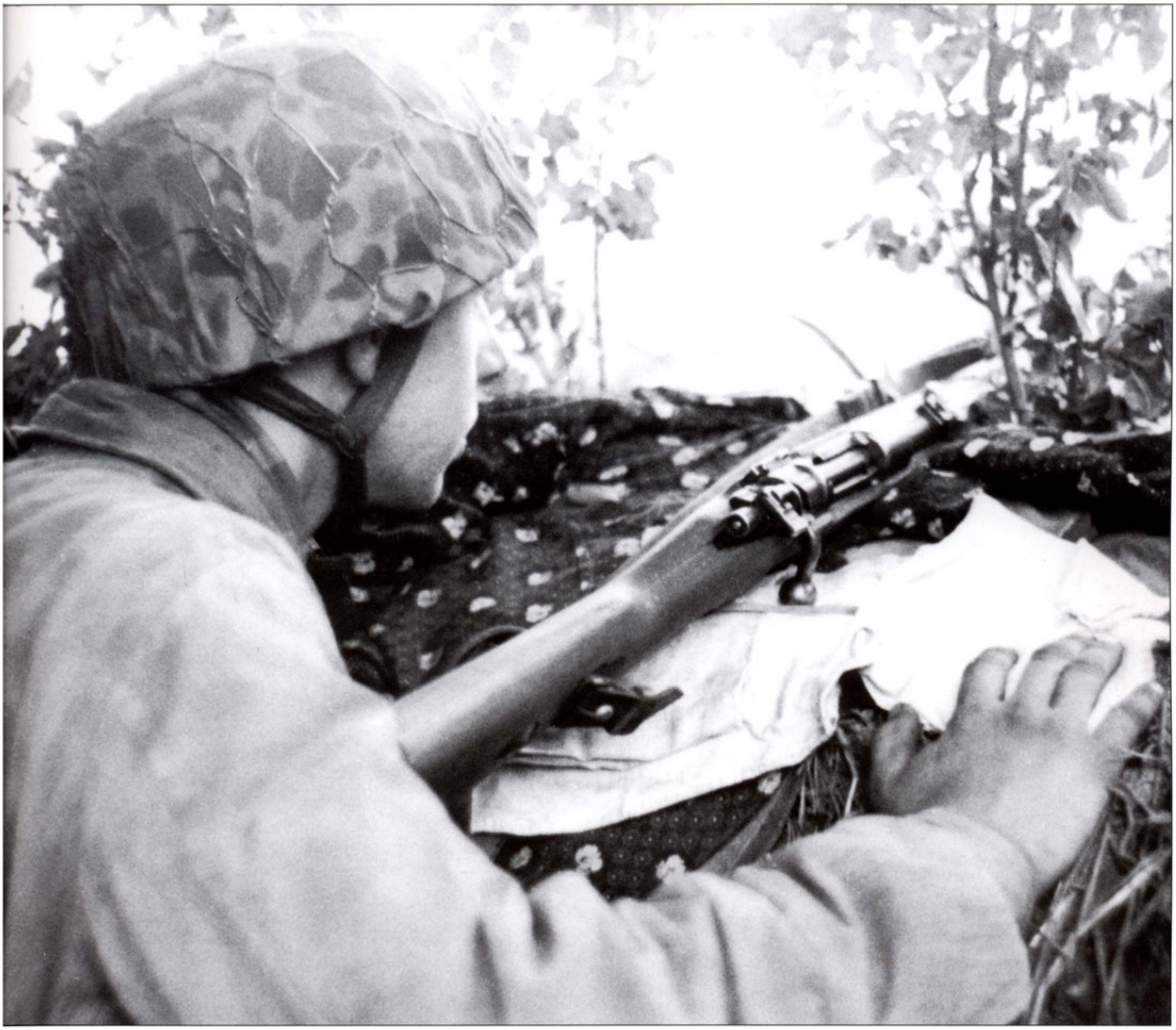


- Top: Kurt Student reviews his men, in May 1944, all of whom use very heavy gauge wire for the attachment of foliage. (Note the interesting mix of helmet models – M38, M40, M42.) *(Author)*

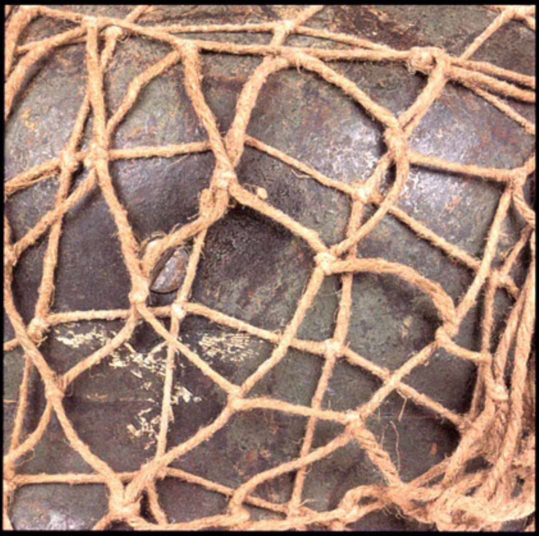
- Bottom: This *Fallschirmjäger* with *panzerschreck* in Normandy has painted his helmet with a light base colour with dark spots and added a crude wire cage for foliage. *(Author)*



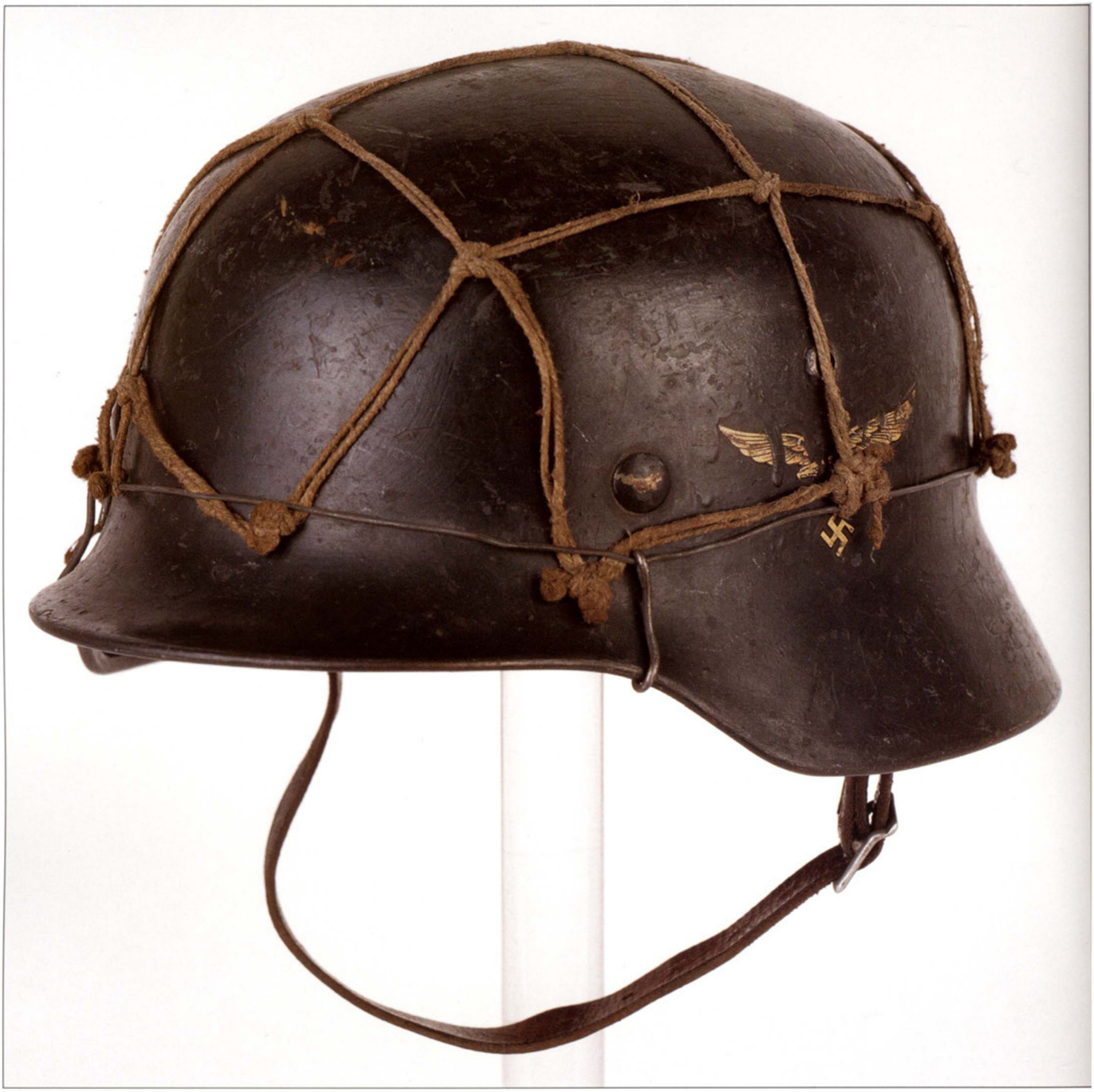
A battle-worn *Fallschirmjäger* with tan-painted helmet under a light gauge chicken wire covering. *(BA)*



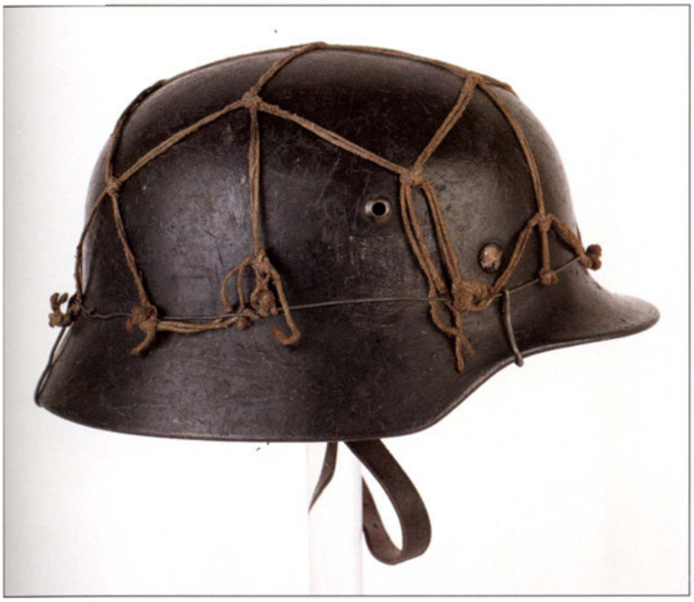
A similar use of chicken wire here but with U.S. parachute material as a cloth covering underneath. *(BA)*

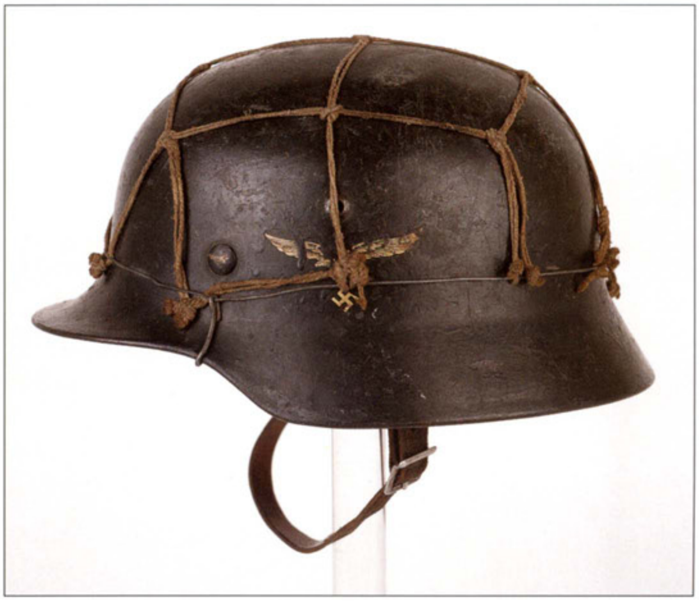


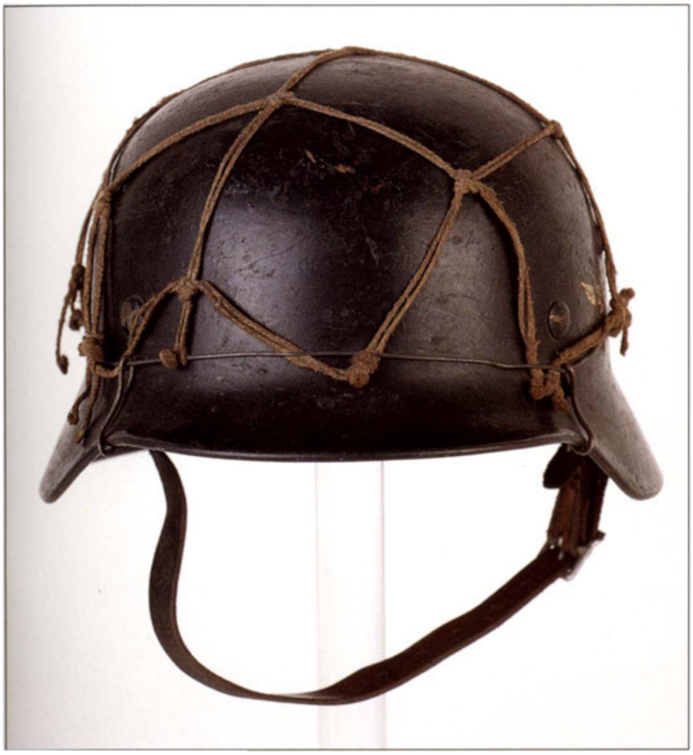
Chapter Four: Netting

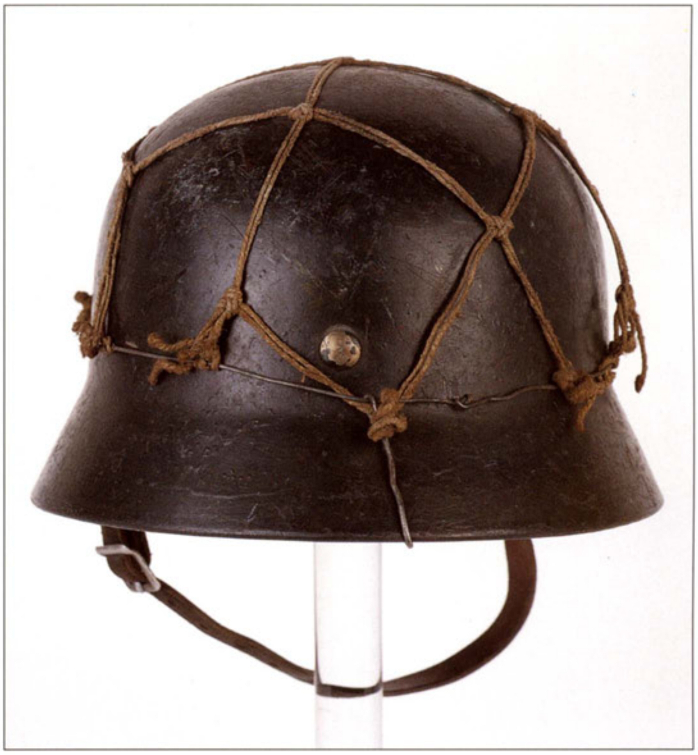


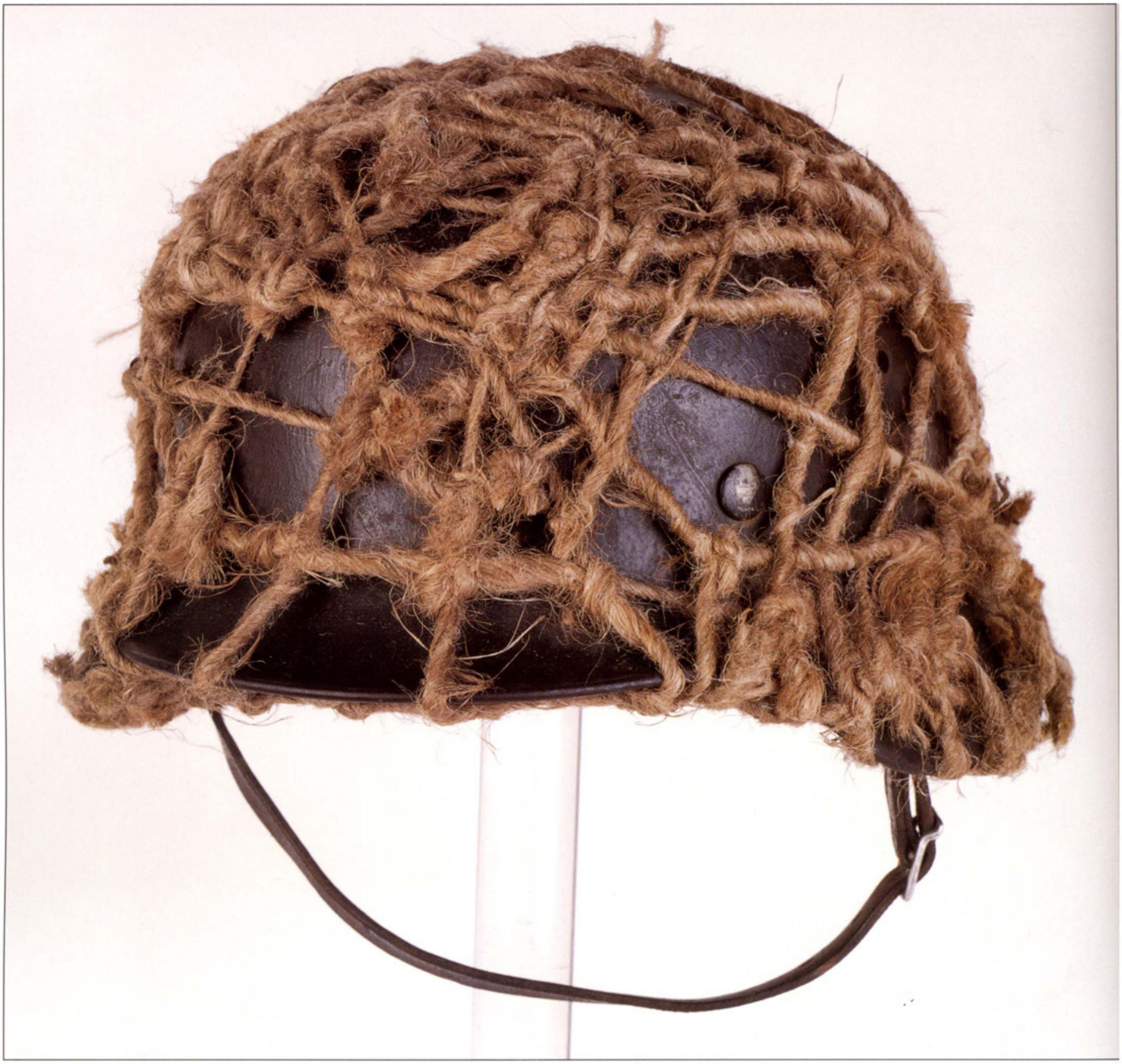
■ M35, painted in dark blue-grey with non-regulation string netting gathered around the skull by a single strand of wire and attached to the rim with three hooks. The national shield has been removed but the Luftwaffe second pattern eagle insignia remains. (Collection of The Imperial War Museum, London)



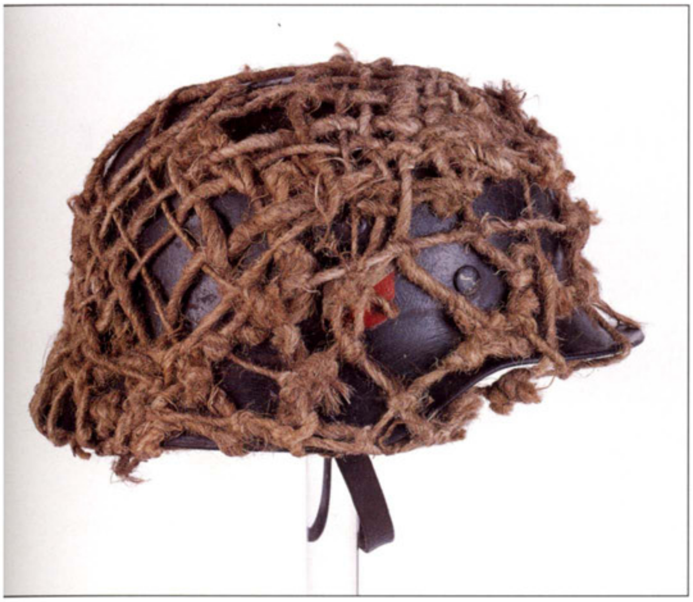


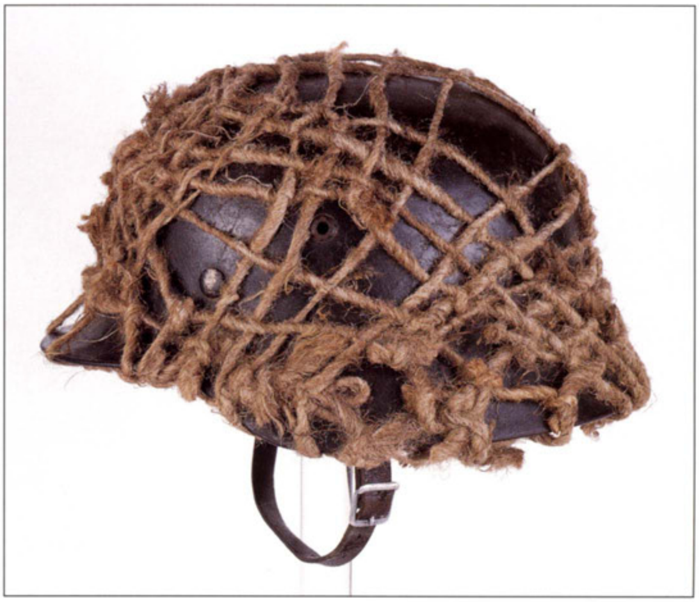


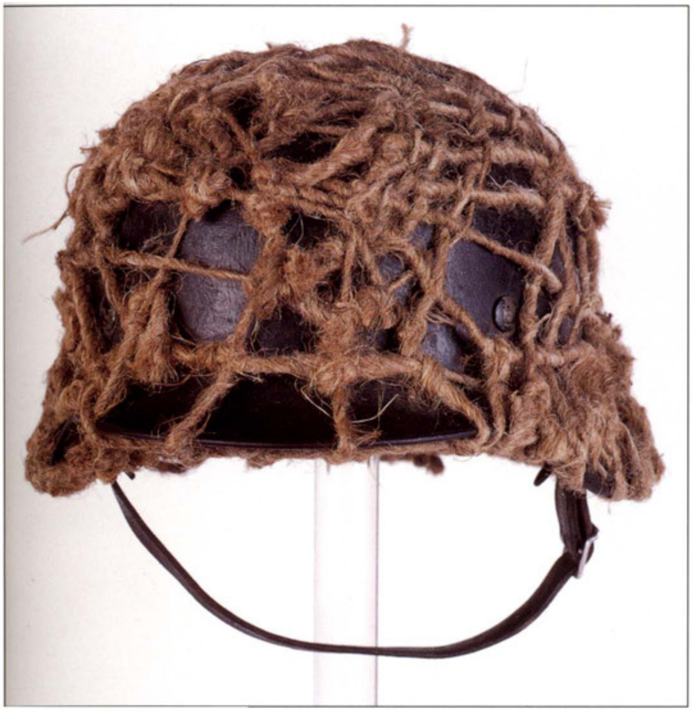


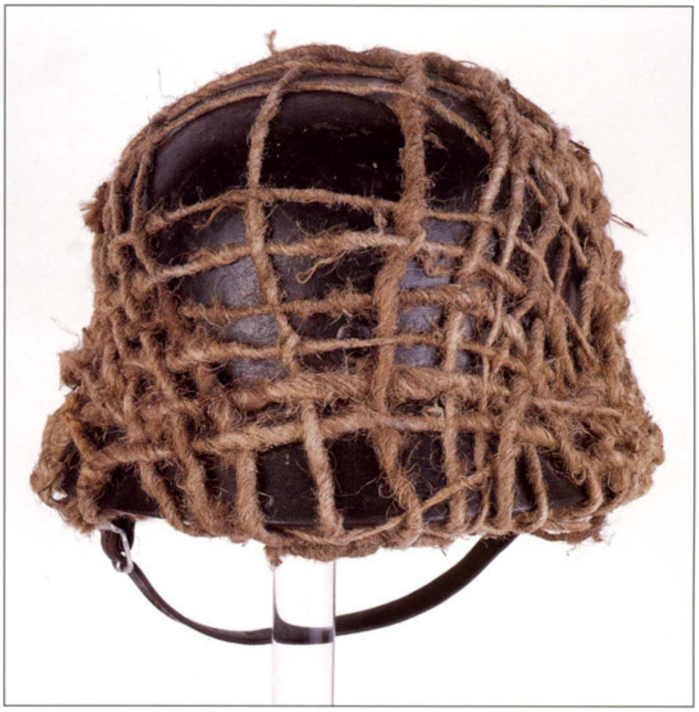


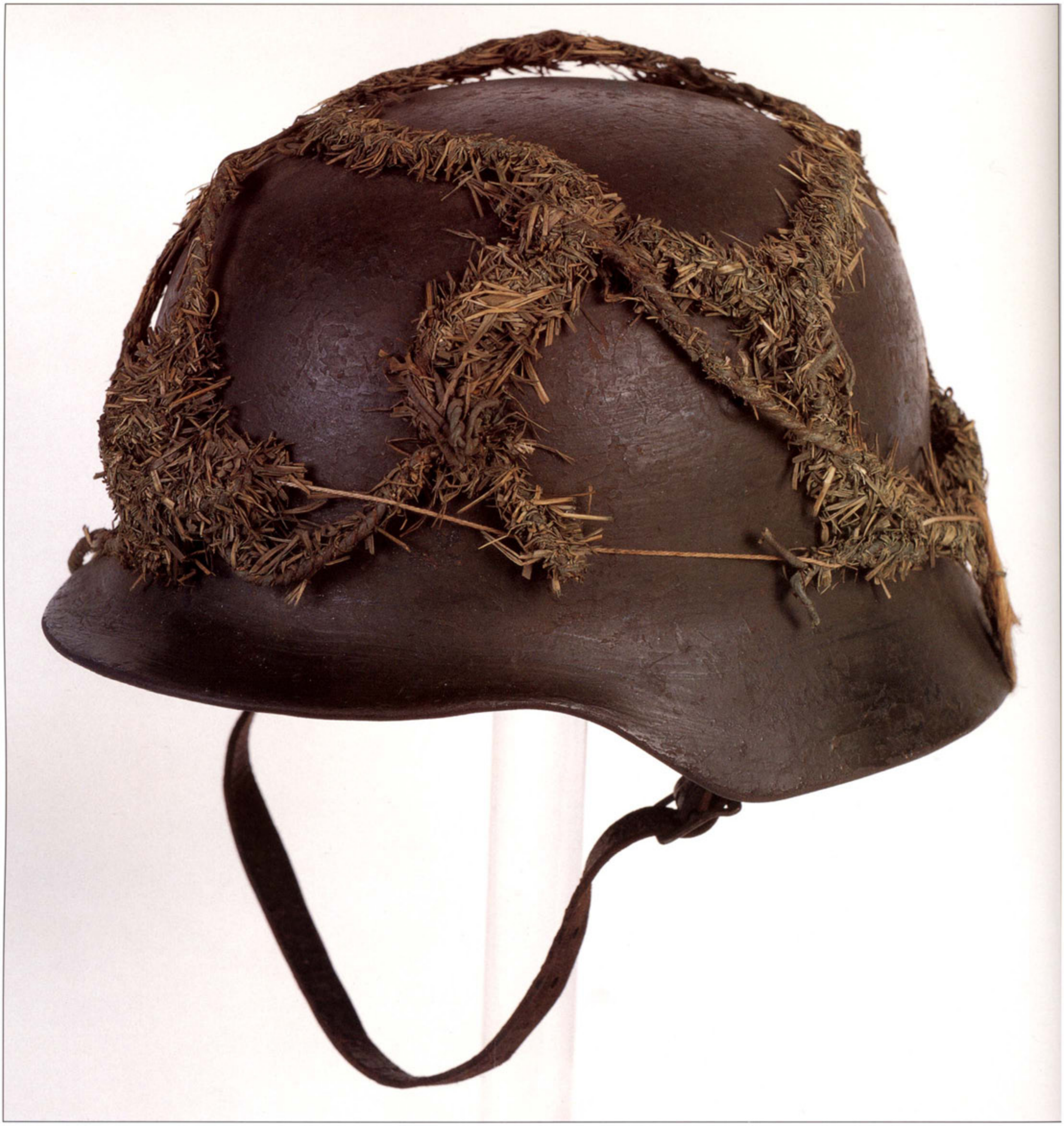
■ M35, painted in dark blue-grey with a non-regulation thick hemp netting cover. The national shield and Luftwaffe second pattern eagle insignia are visible. (Collection of Chris Jones)



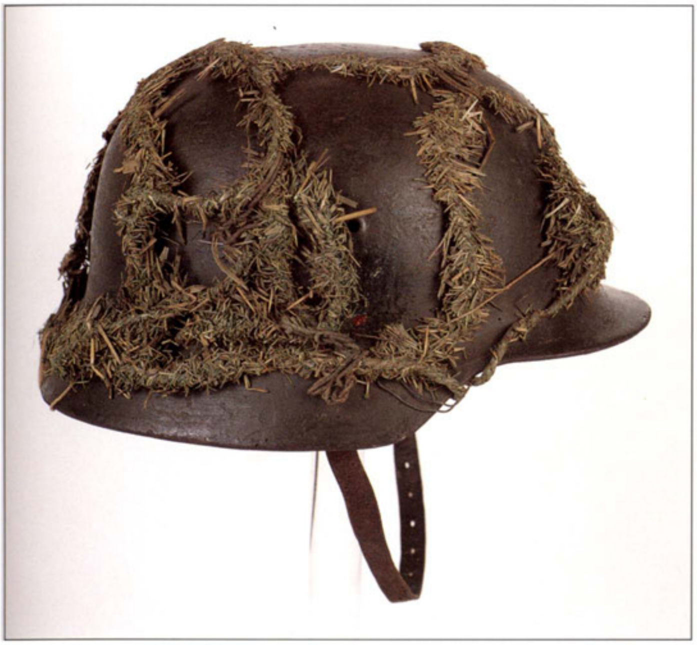


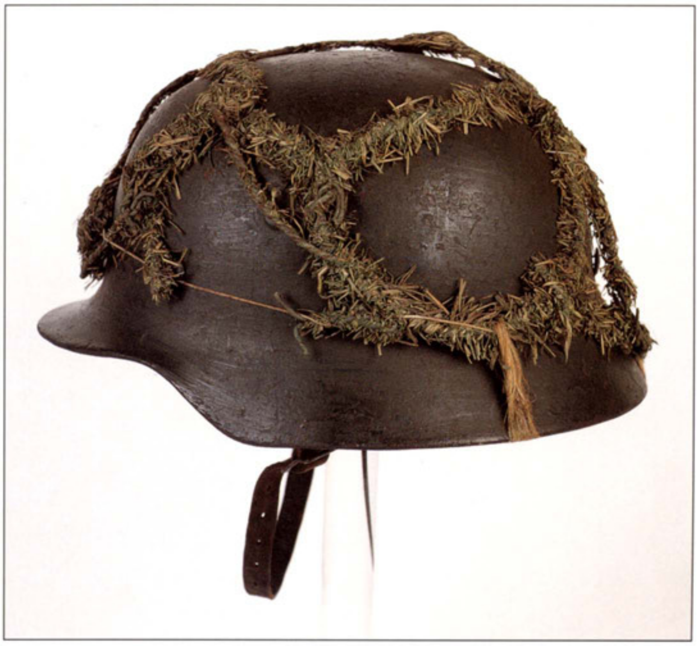


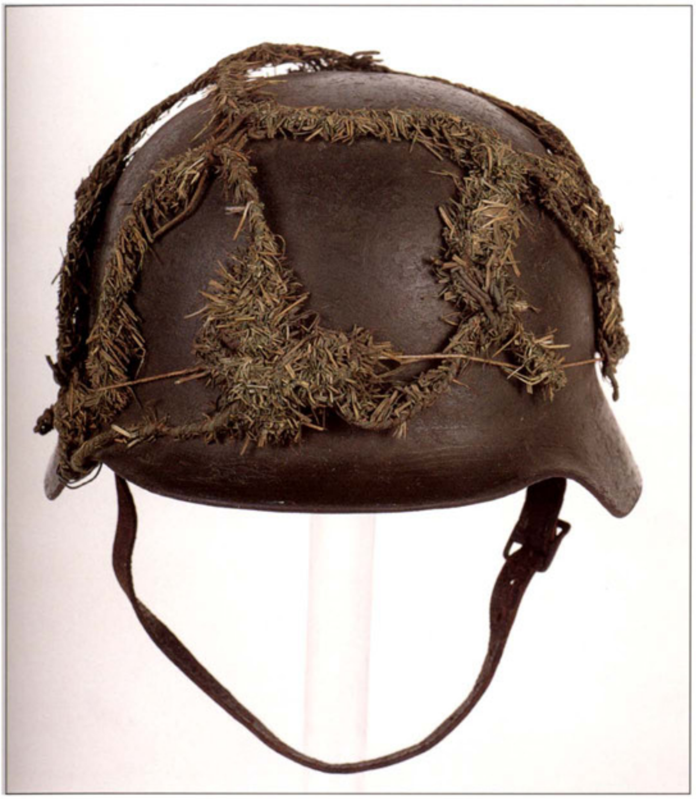


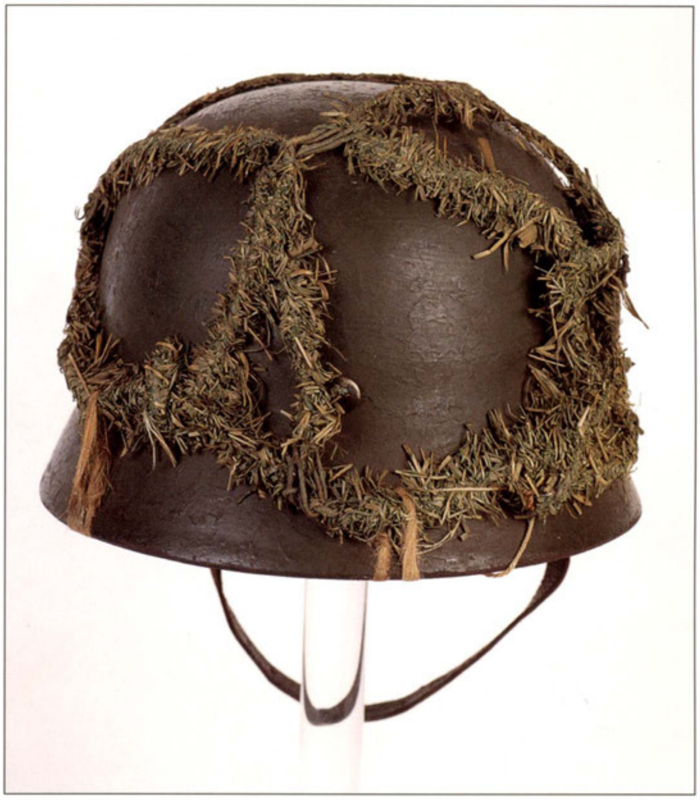


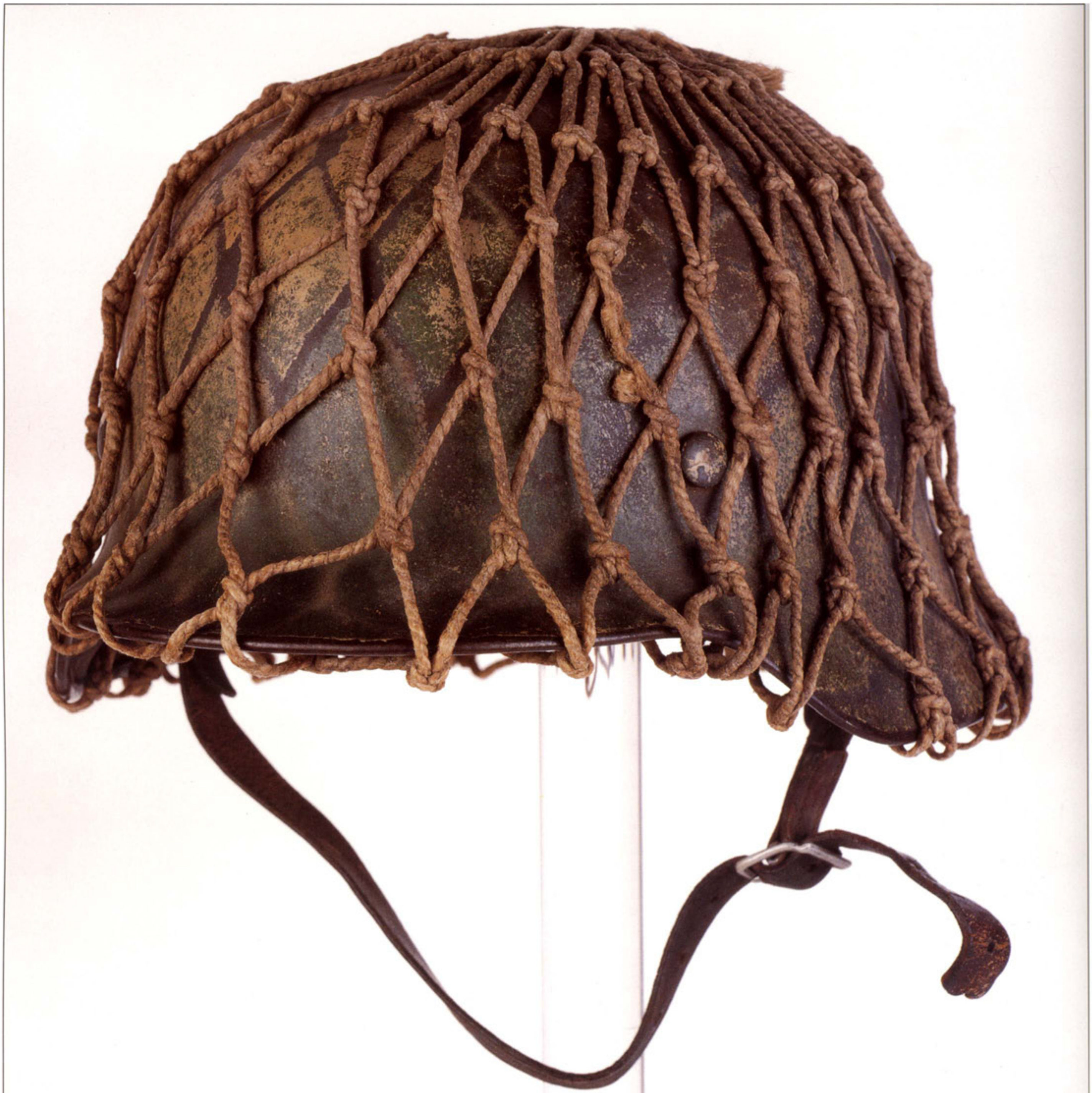
M40, originally painted in dark blue-grey, overpainted grey-green with a non-regulation artificial grass netting cover attached to the liner by three loops. Only portions of the well-worn national shield is visible through the paint (Collection of Chris Jones)



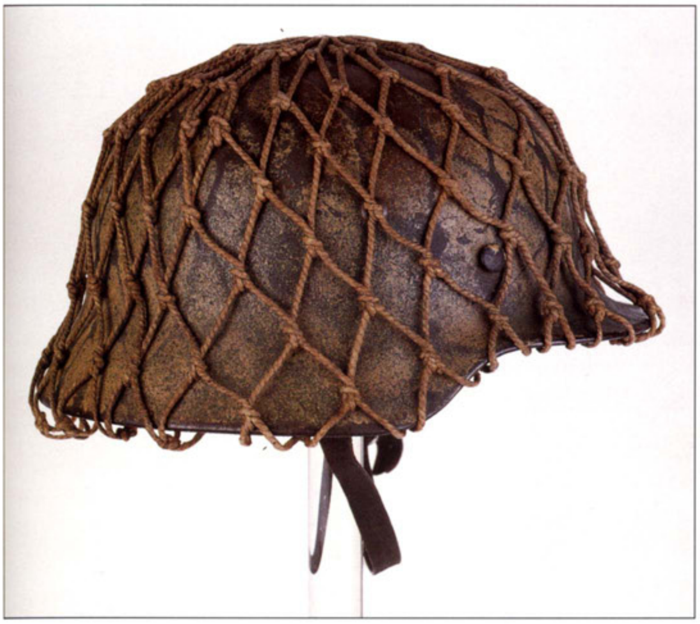


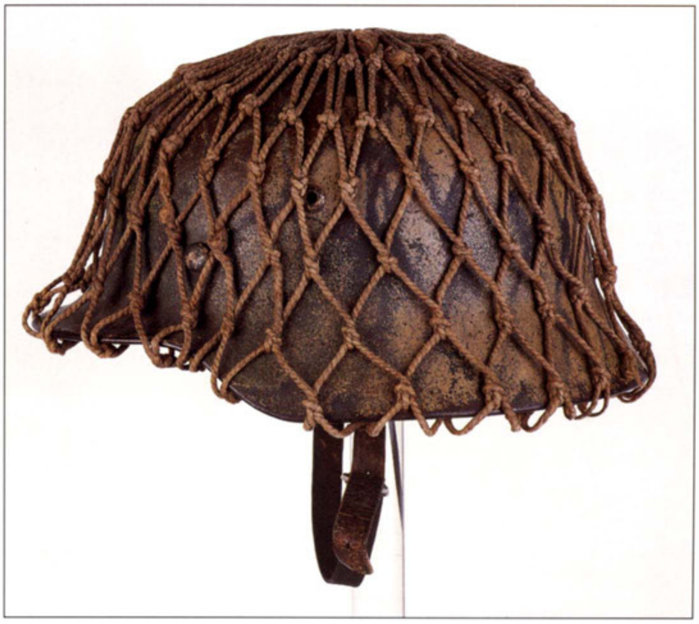


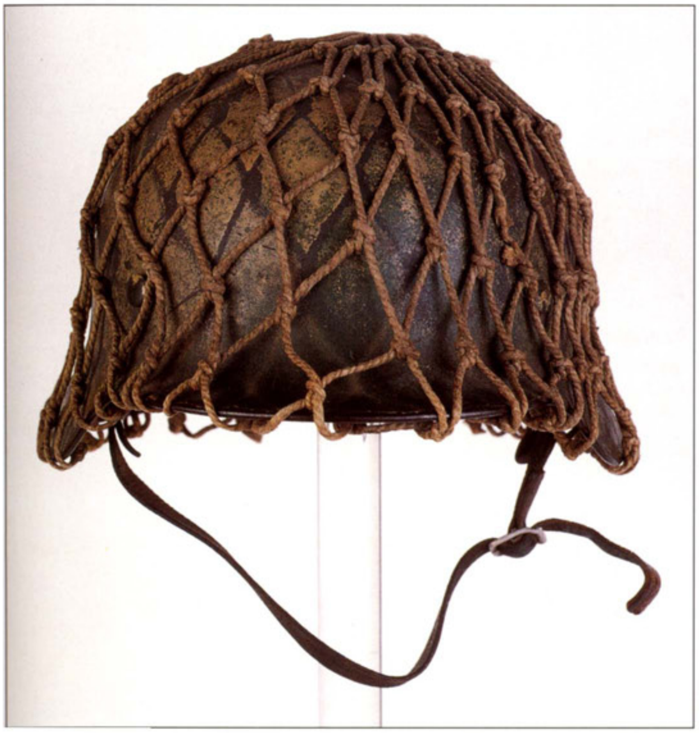


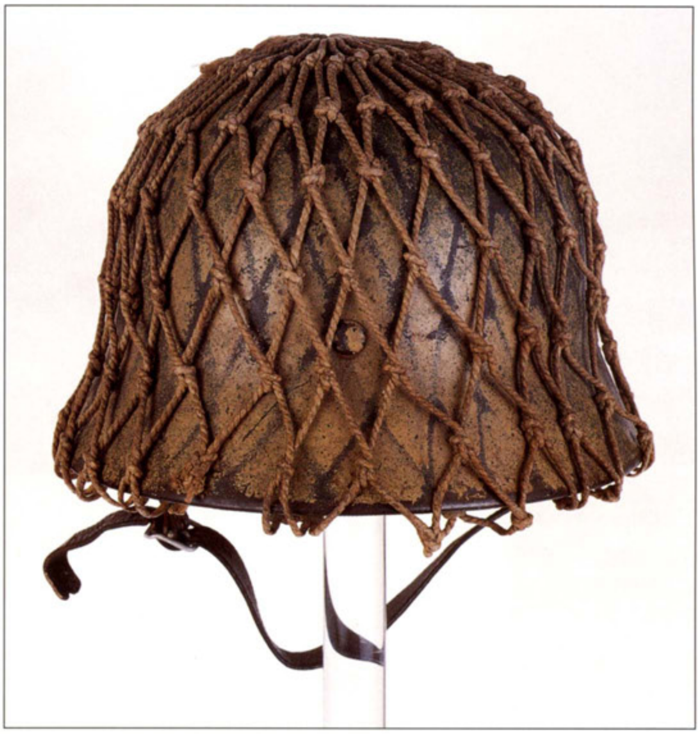


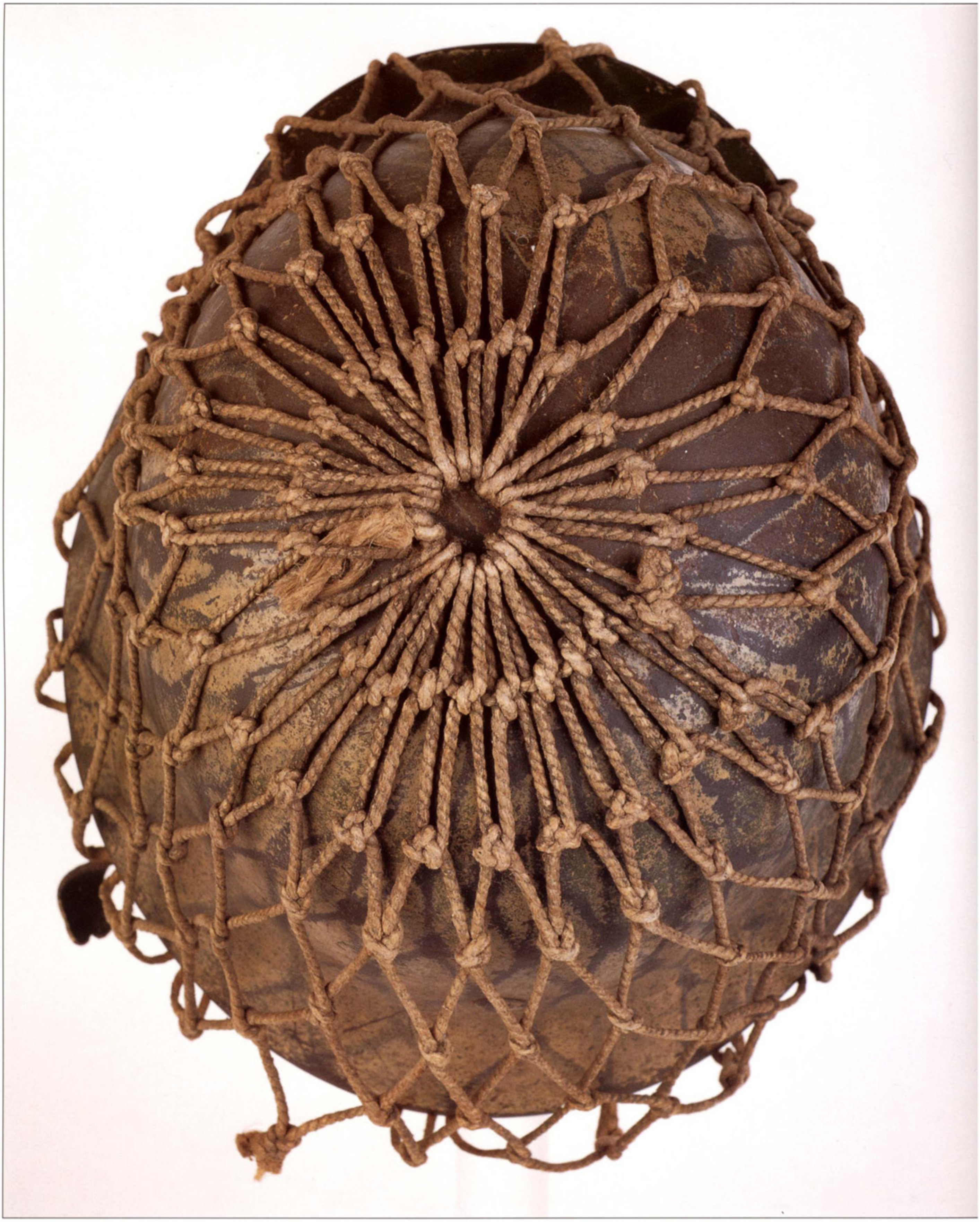
M35, in tan, brown and green with a captured net, possibly a British, Australian or New Zealand model. (Collection of Chris Jones)

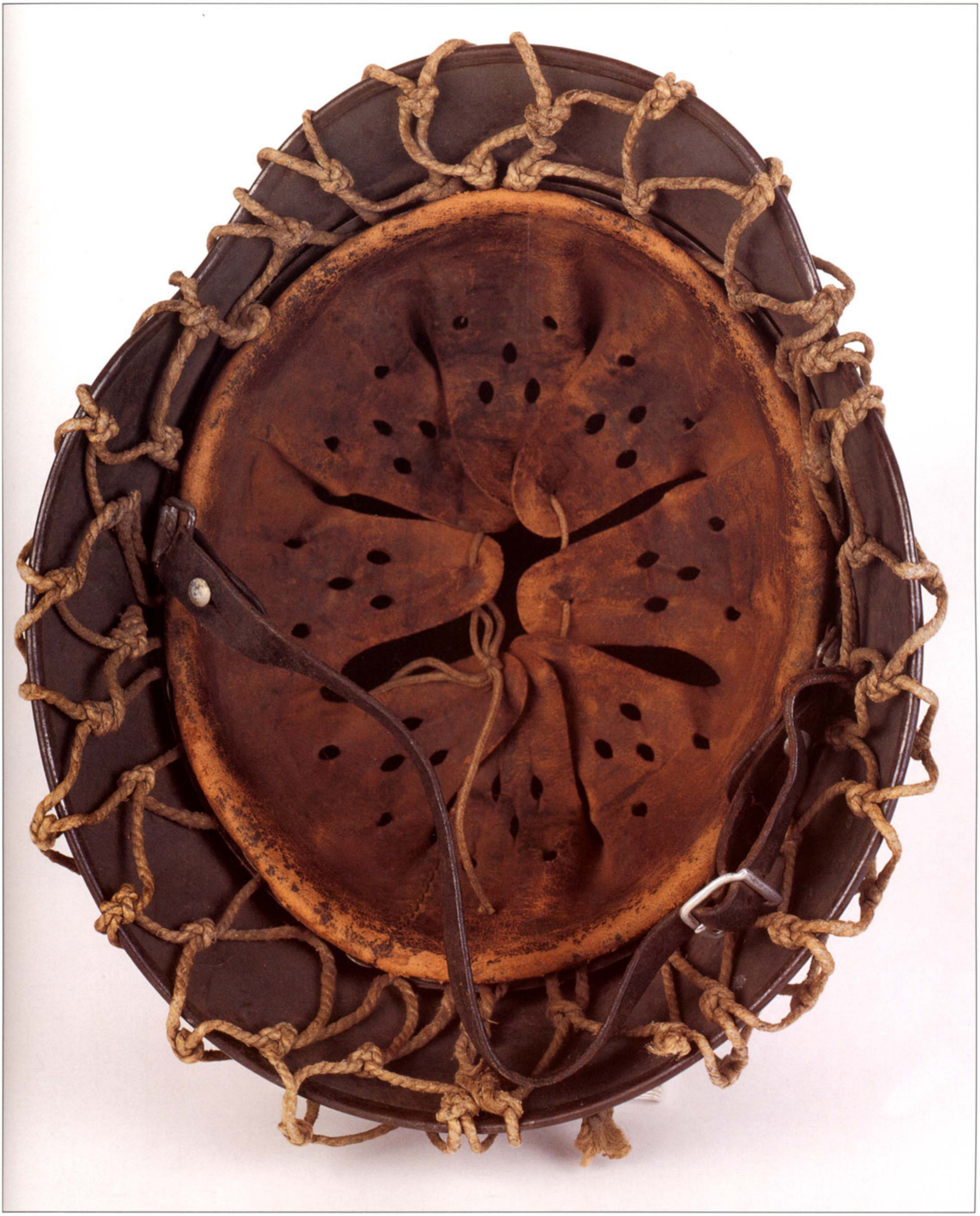


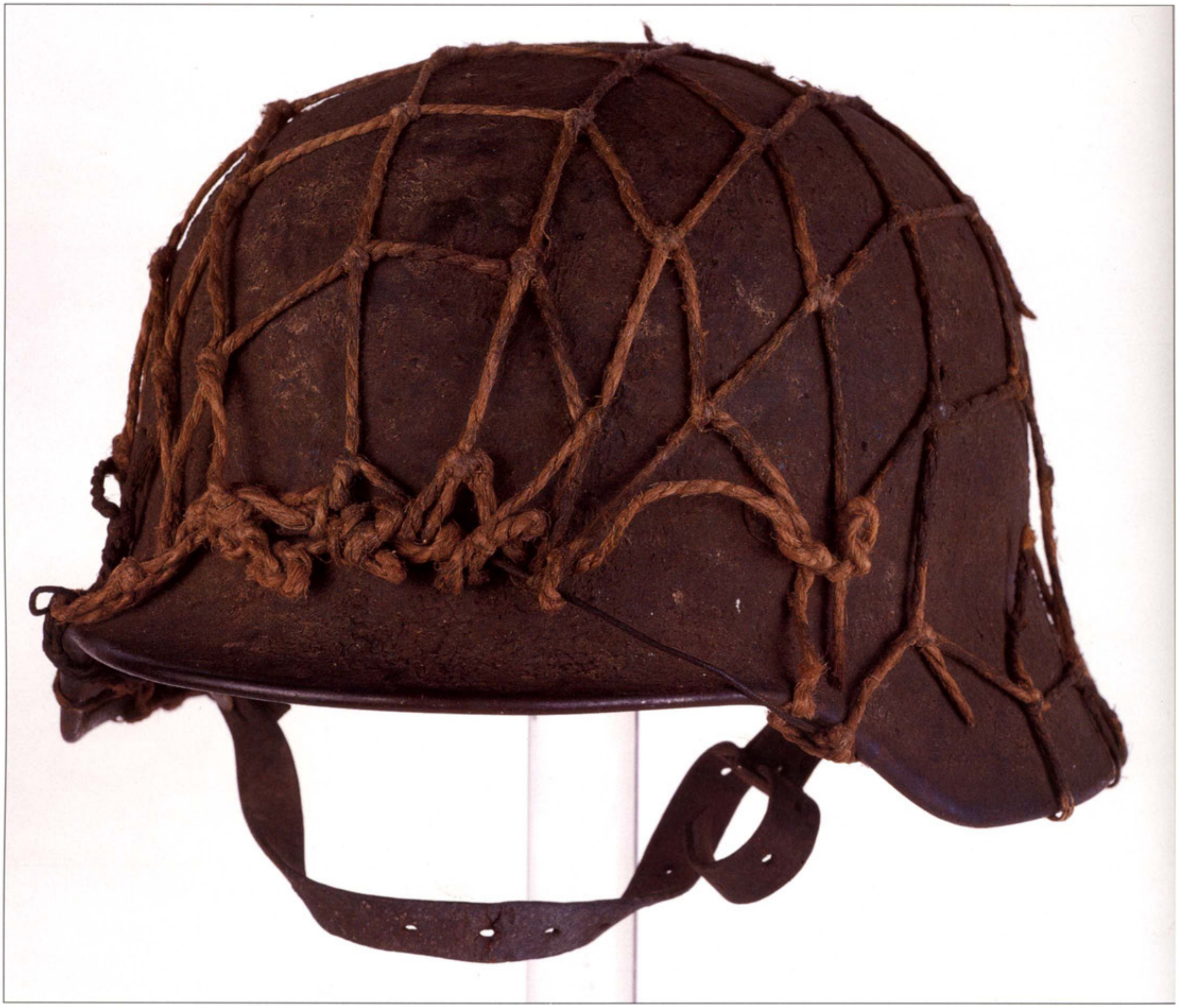




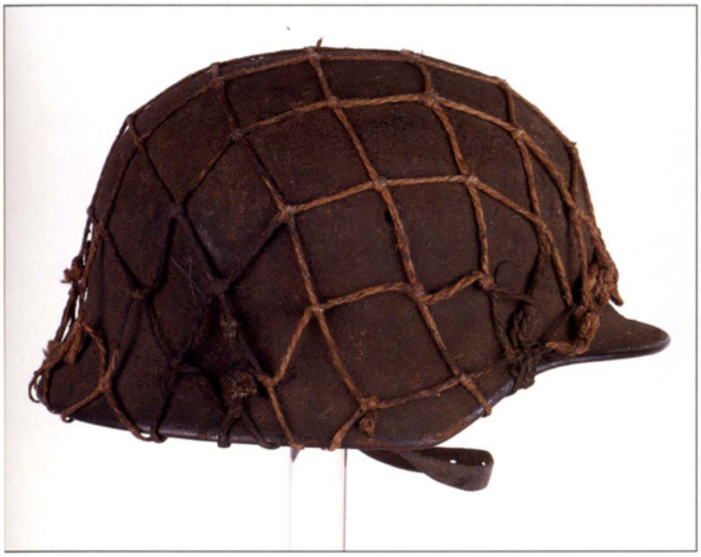


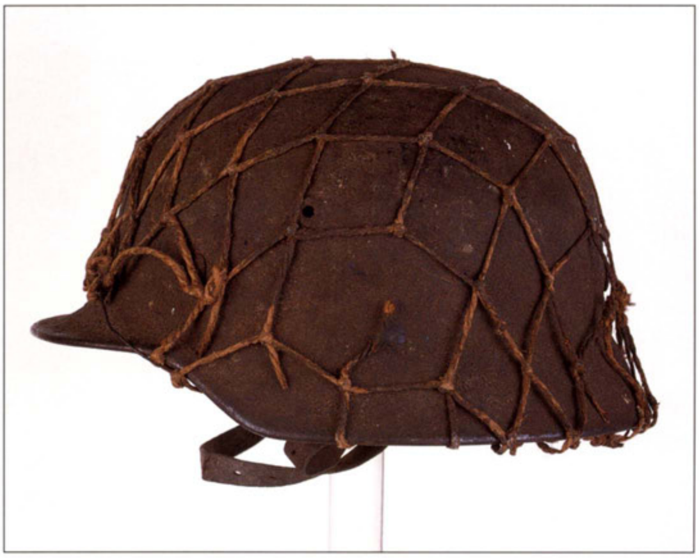


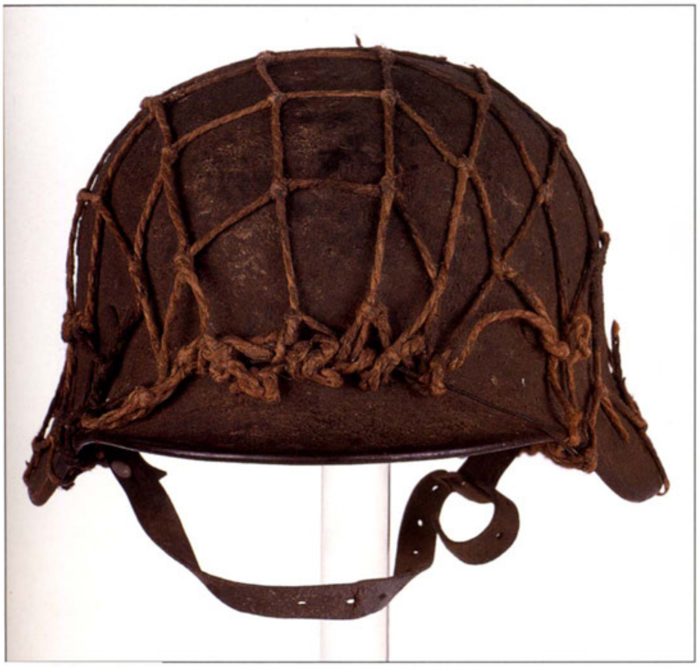


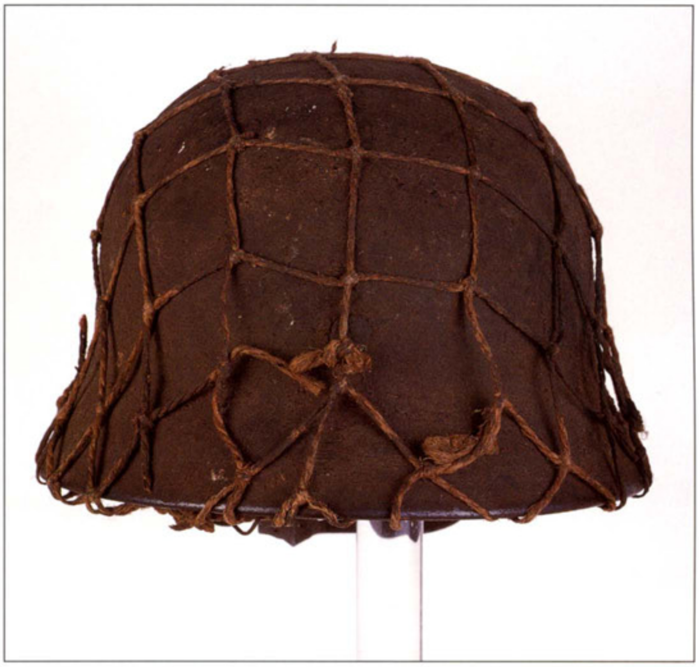


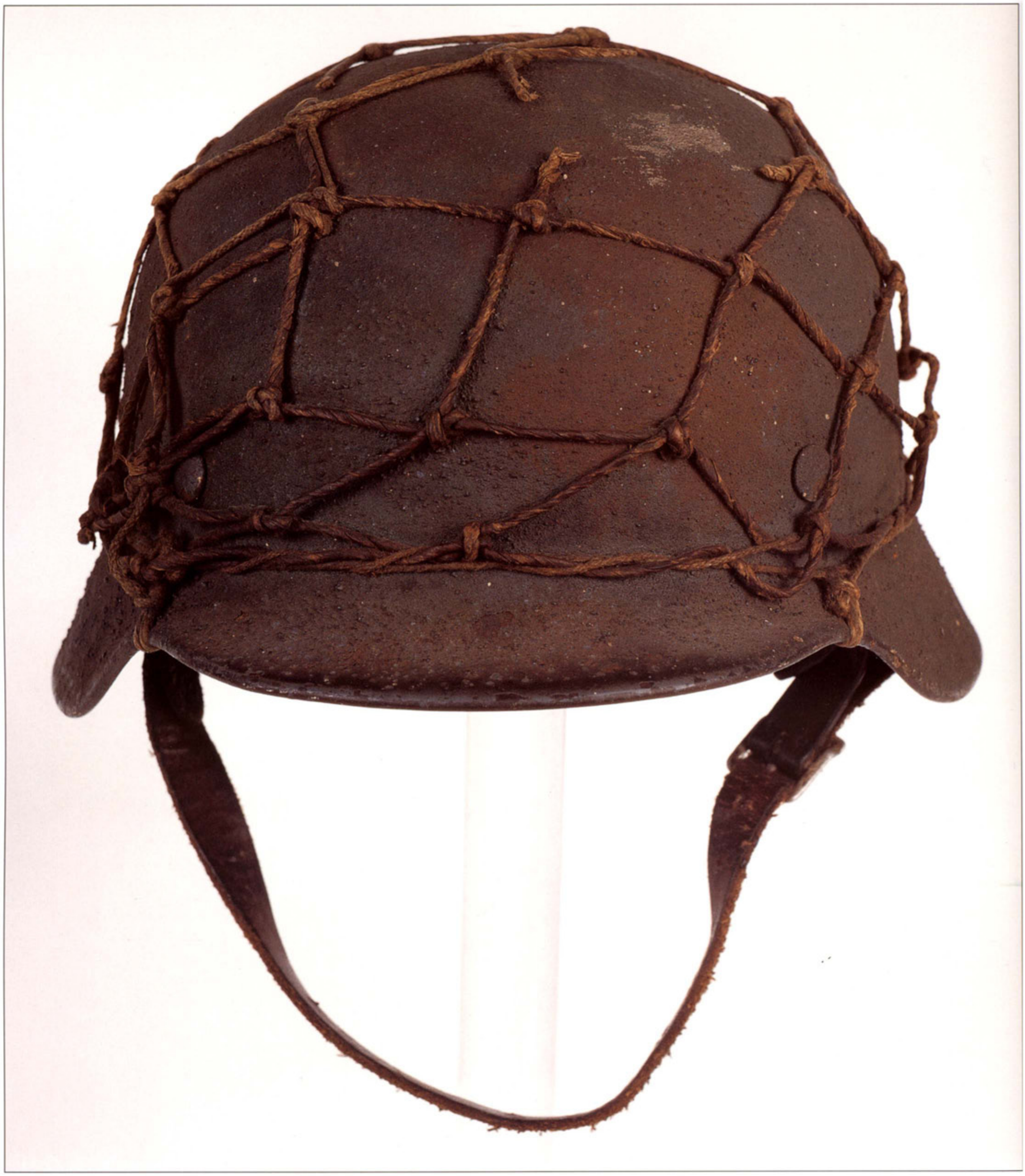
M40, overpainted in a grey-green sawdust mix with a regulation net held onto the shell with a single strand of wire. (Collection of Chris Jones)



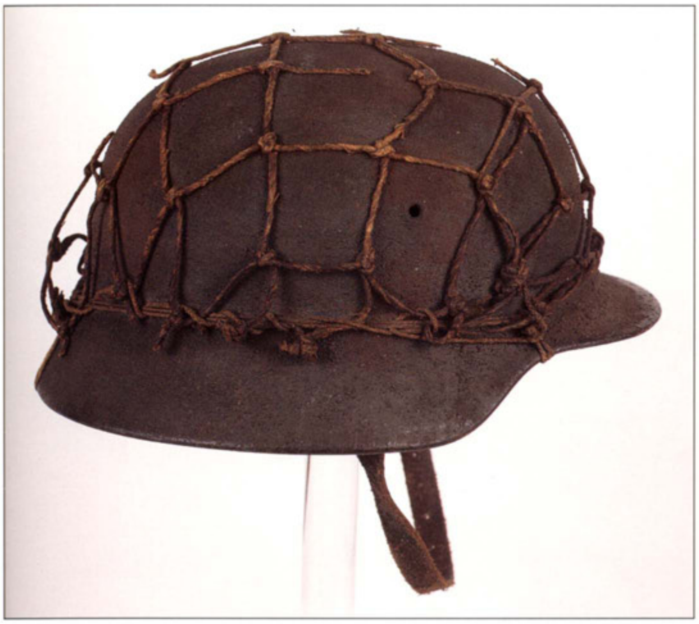


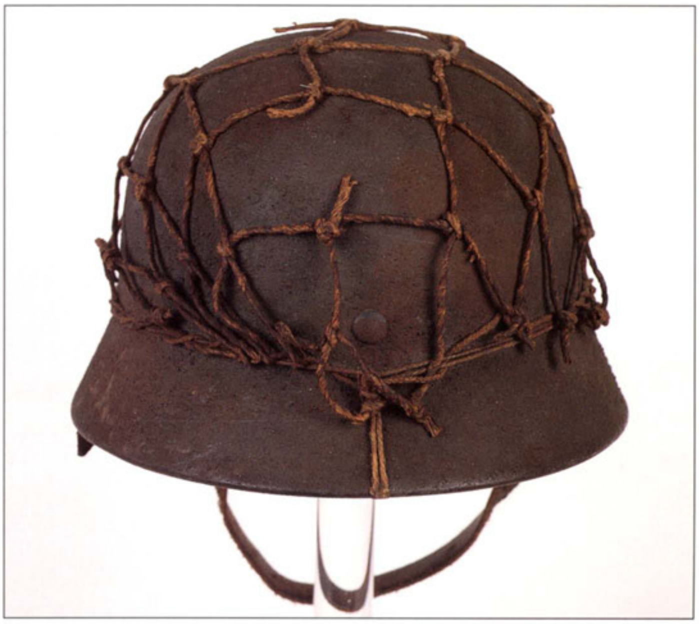


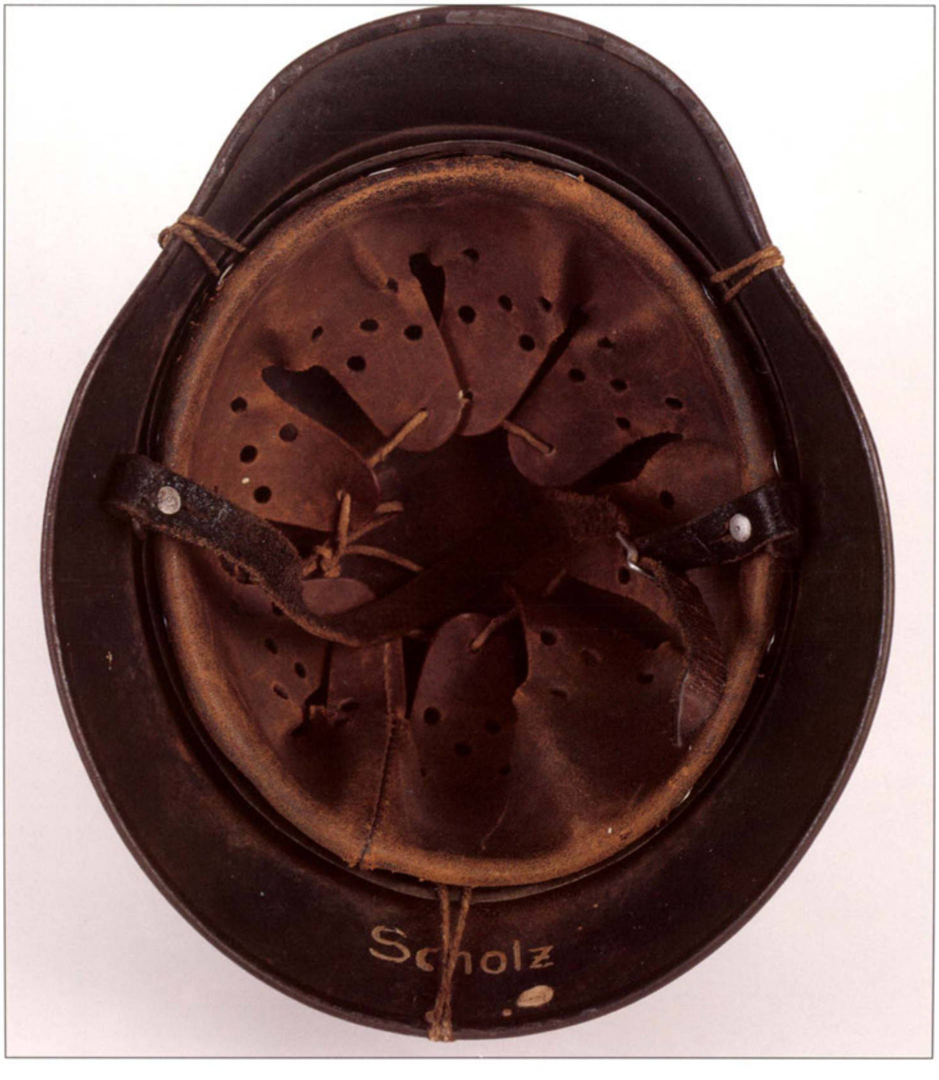


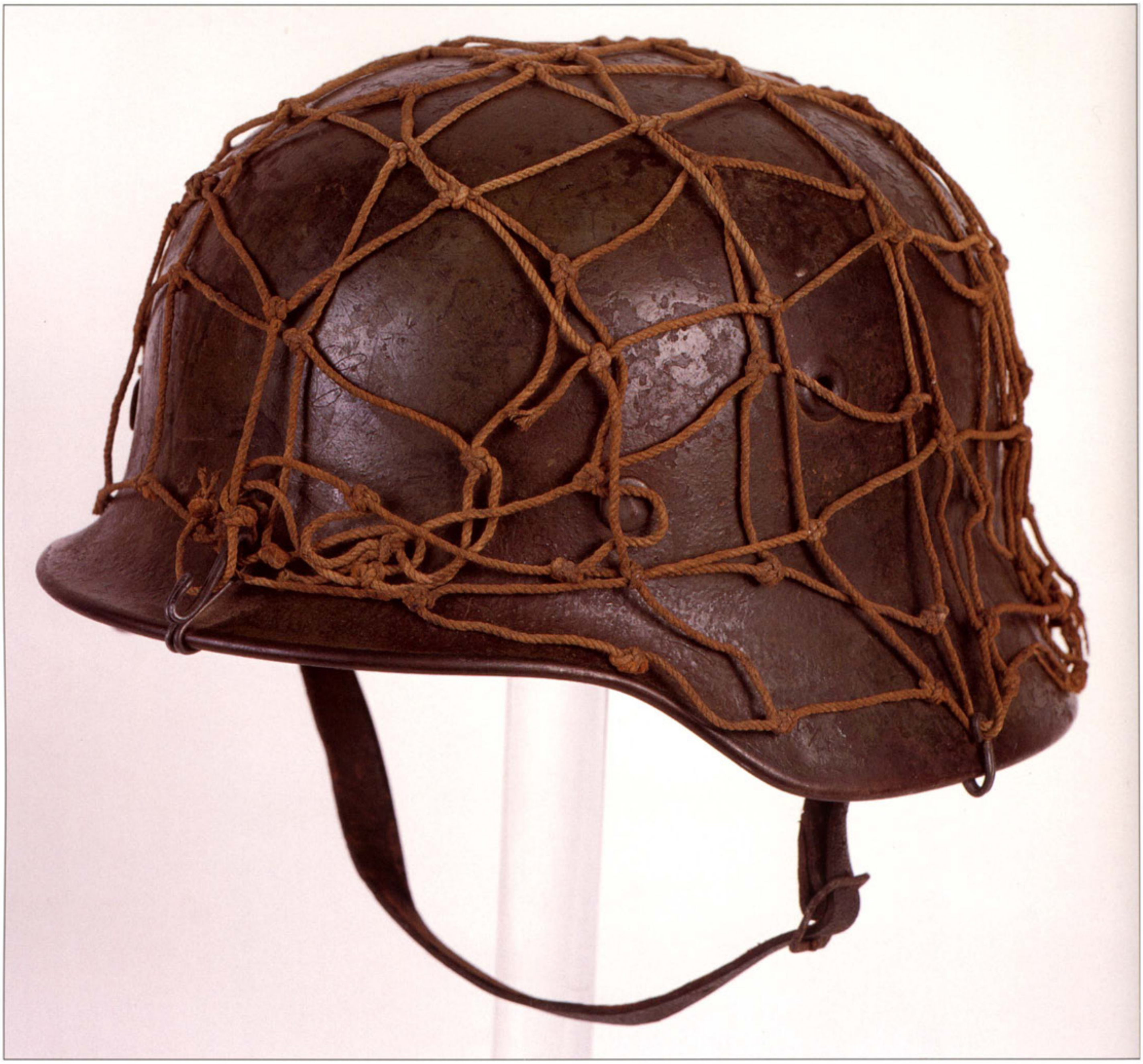


■ M40, overpainted in a grey-green sawdust mix and patches of brown with a regulation net and held onto the liner band by three loops. (Collection of Chris Jones)

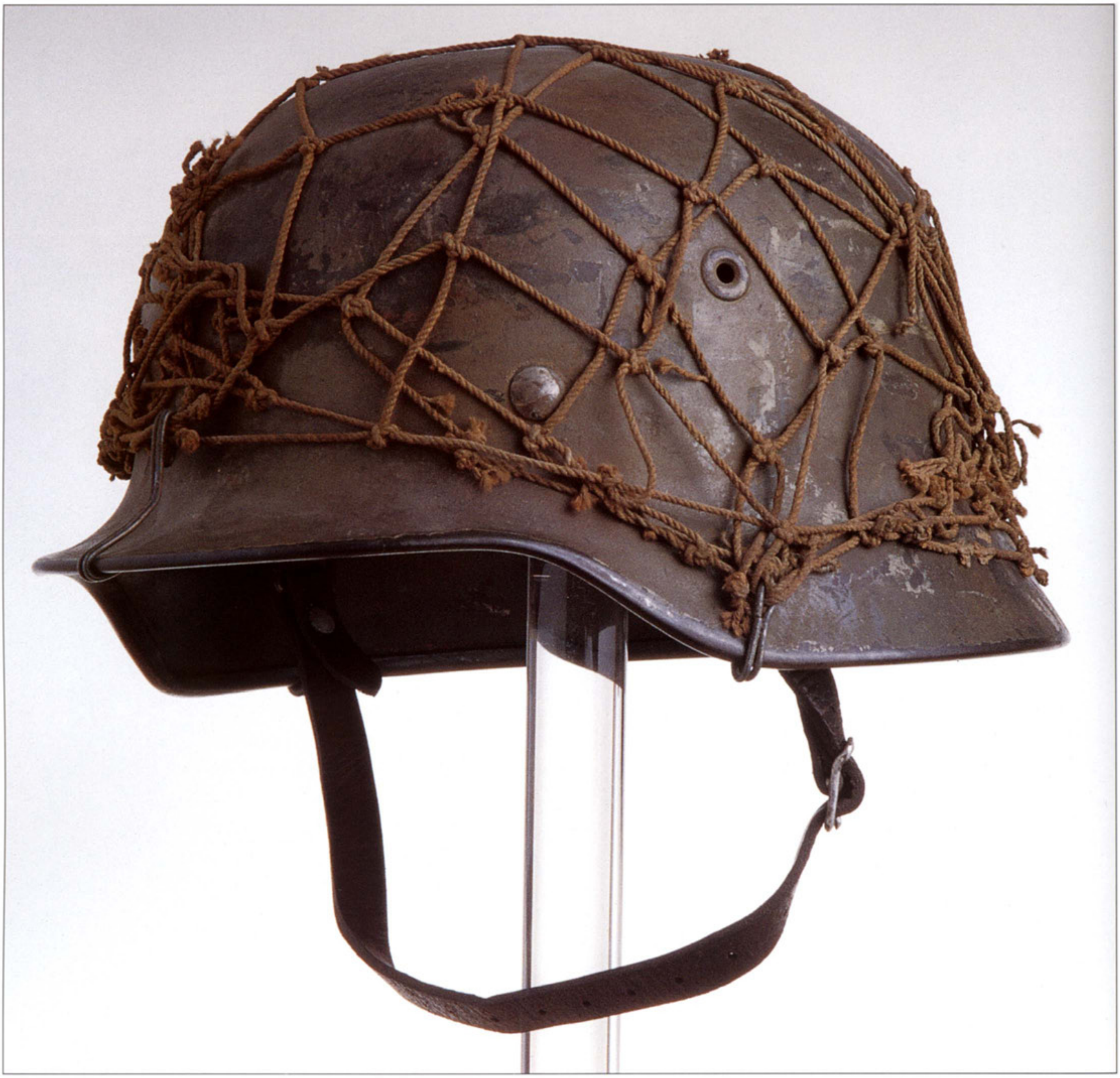




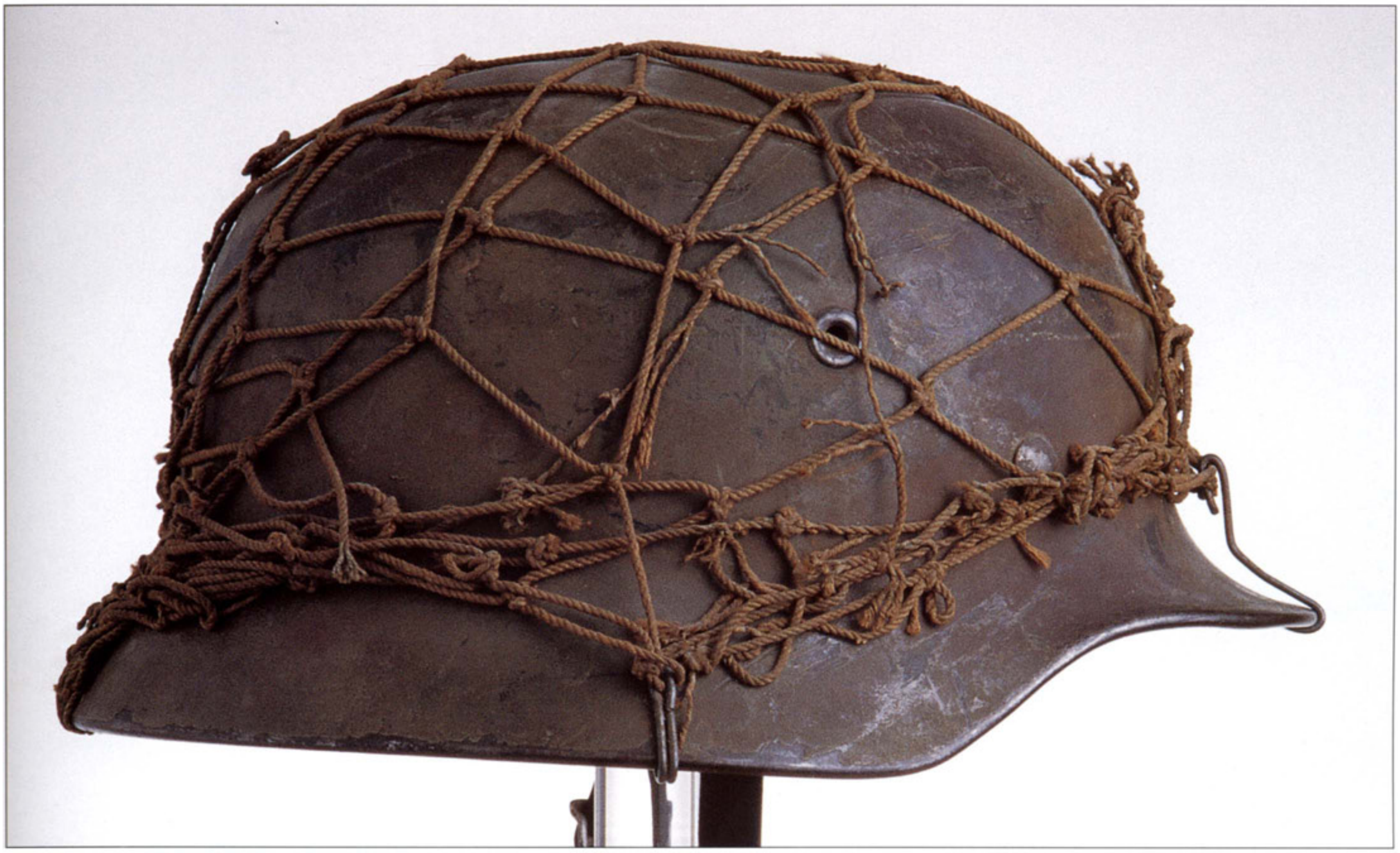

Scholz

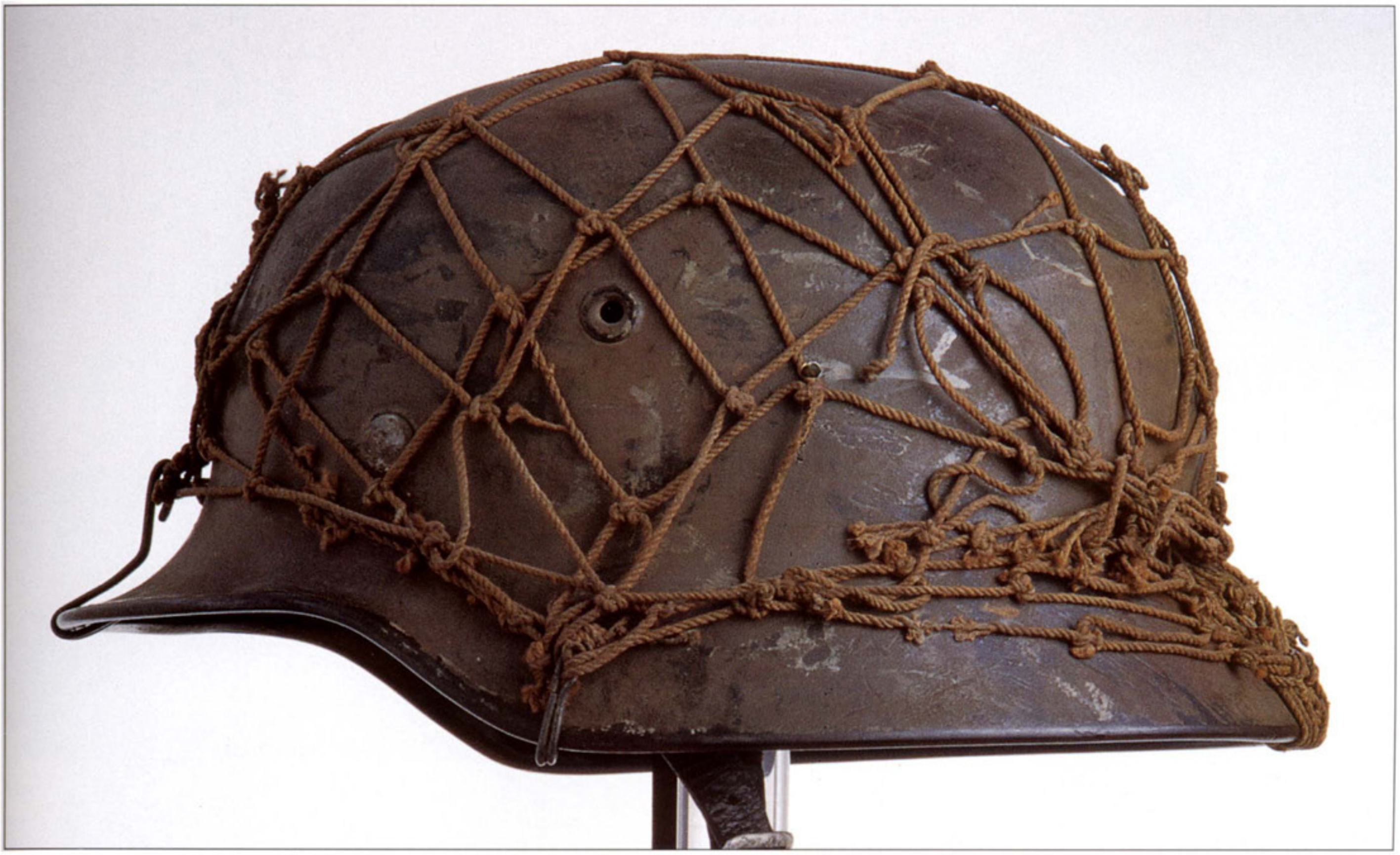


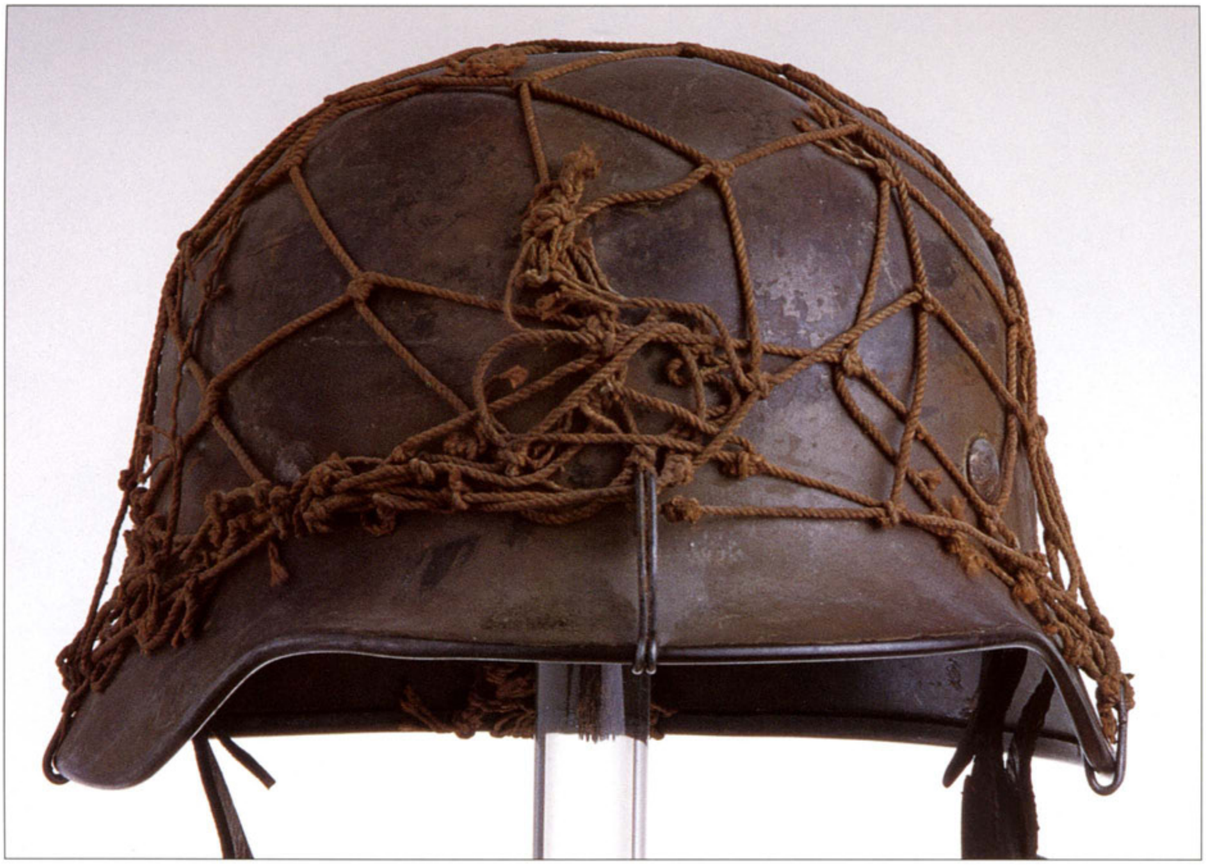
M40, overpainted in a grey and brown with a netting variation of twisted cord, secured to the rim by five hooks. The Luftwaffe second pattern eagle insignia is barely visible under the paint (Collection of Chris Jones)

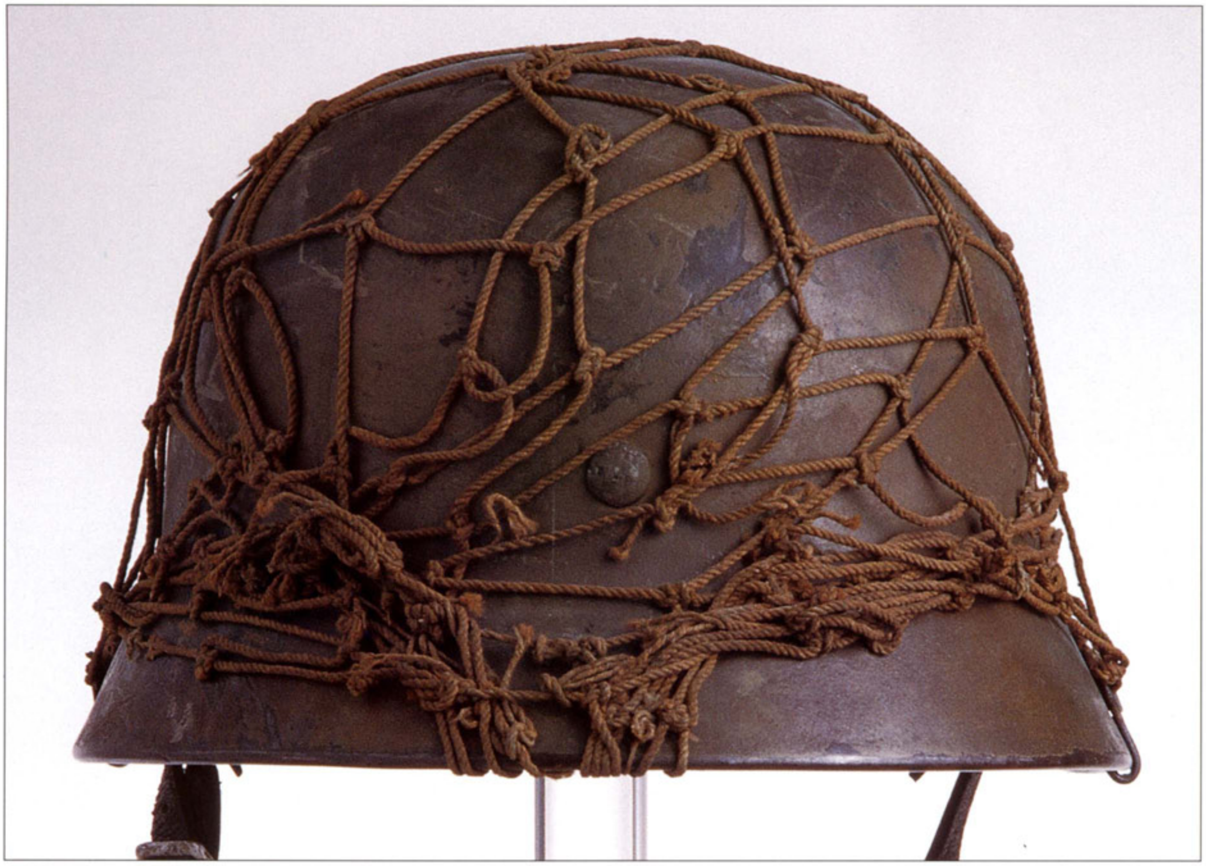


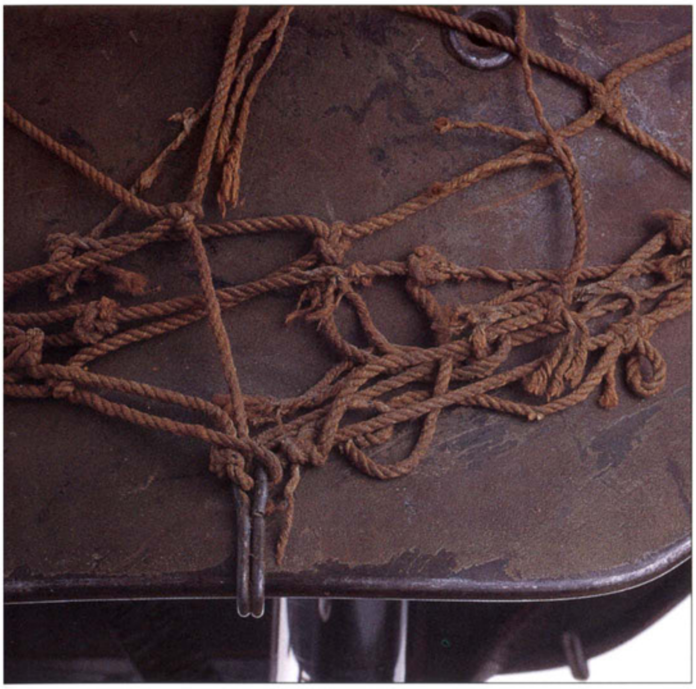
M40, overpainted in khaki and with the same netting variation as the previous page, of twisted cord, secured to the rim by four hooks. (Collection of David Asselin)

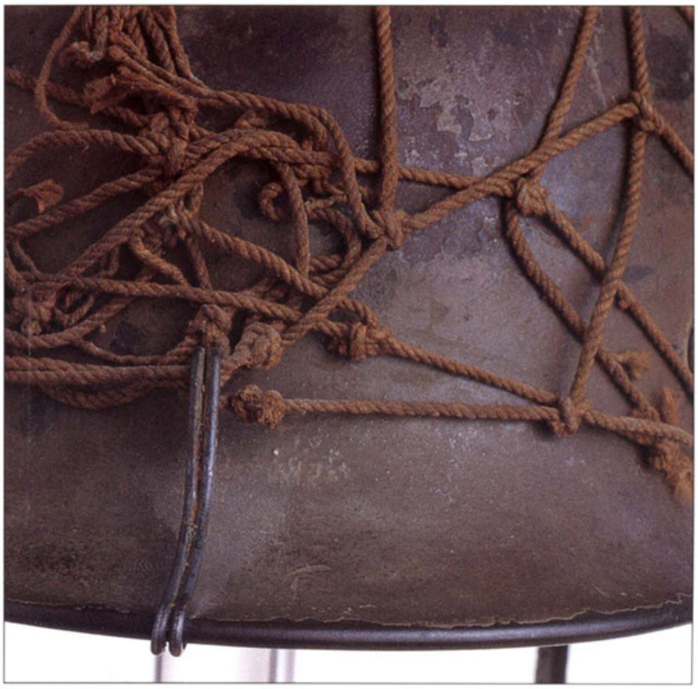


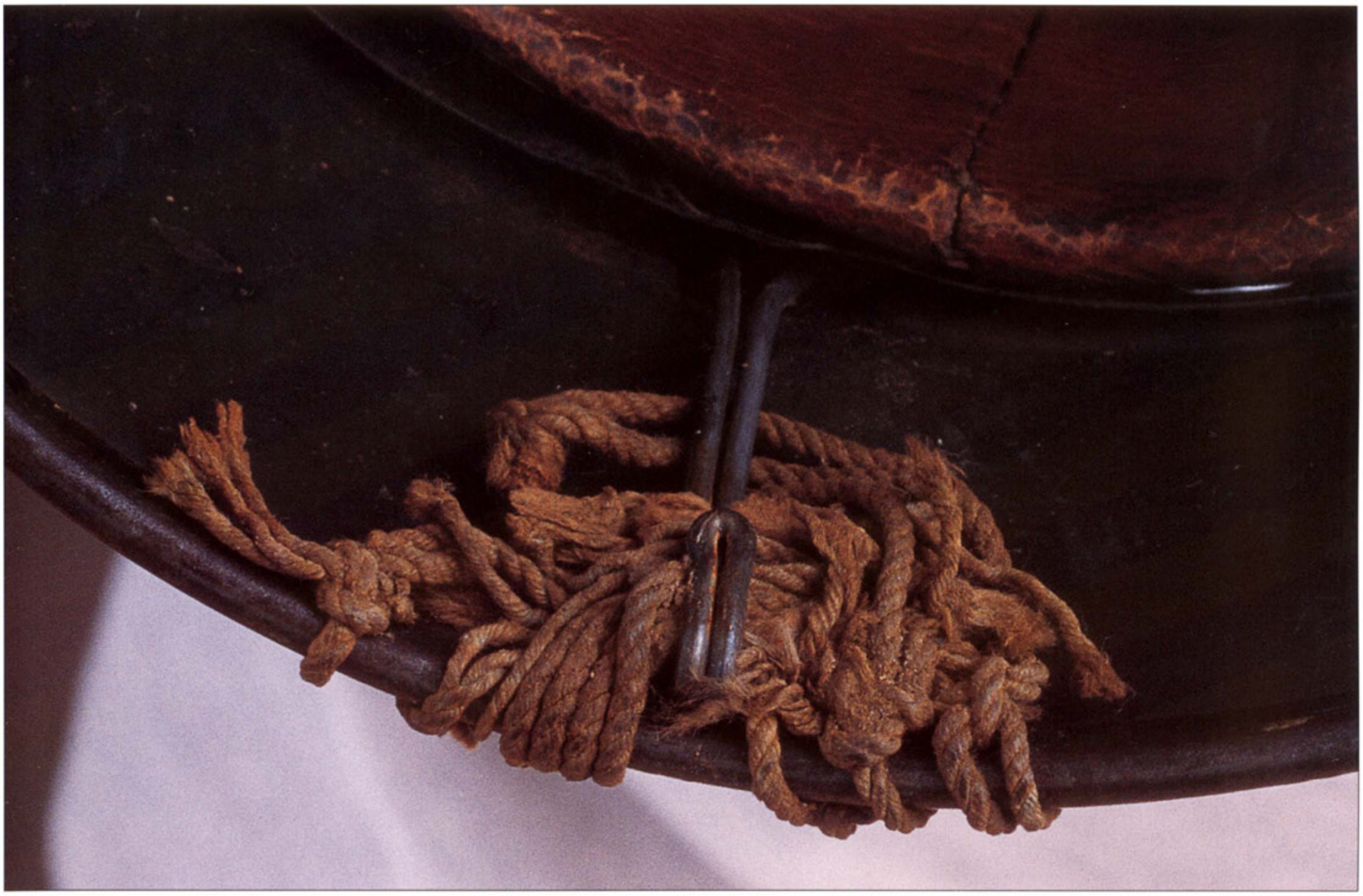


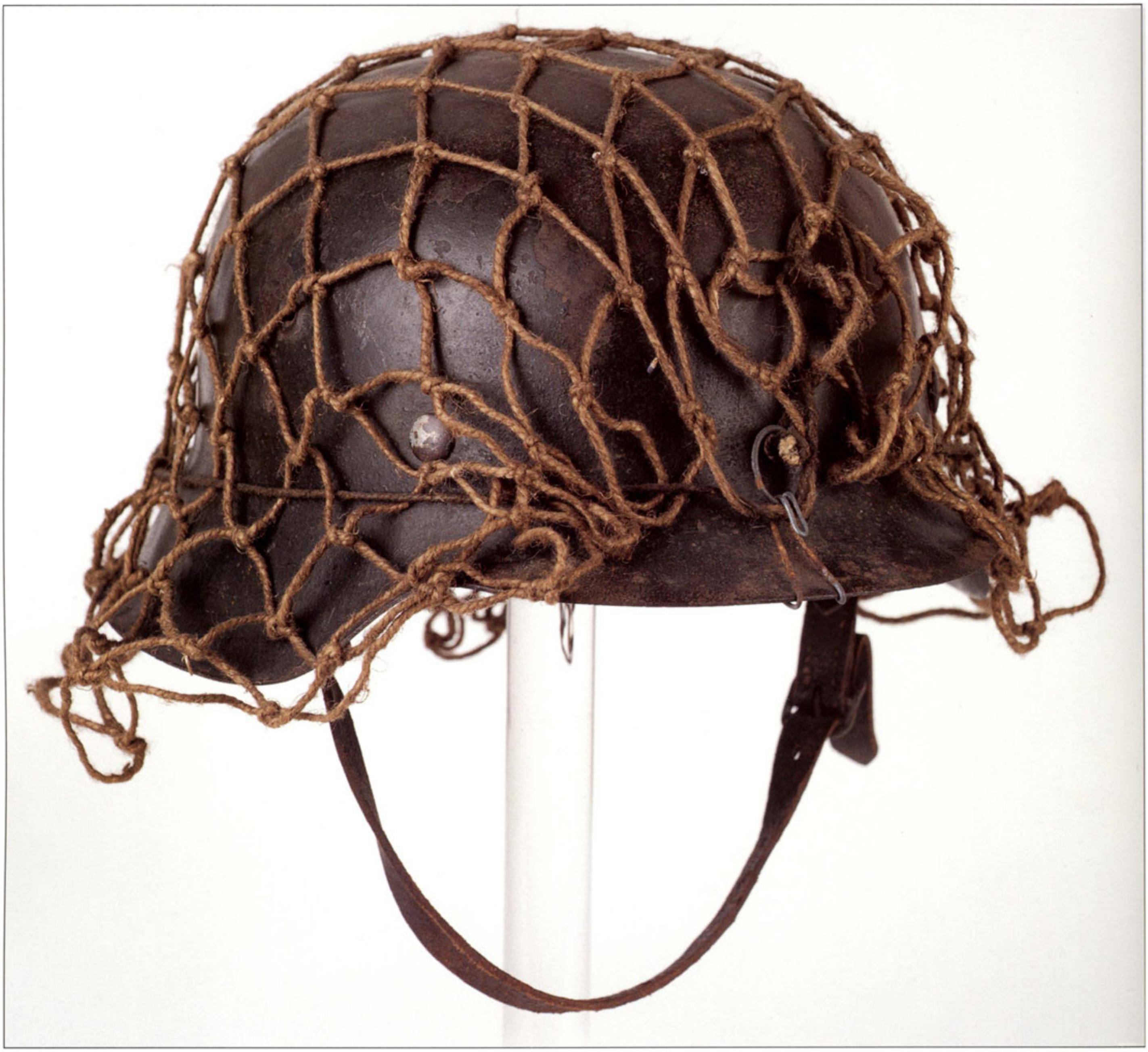




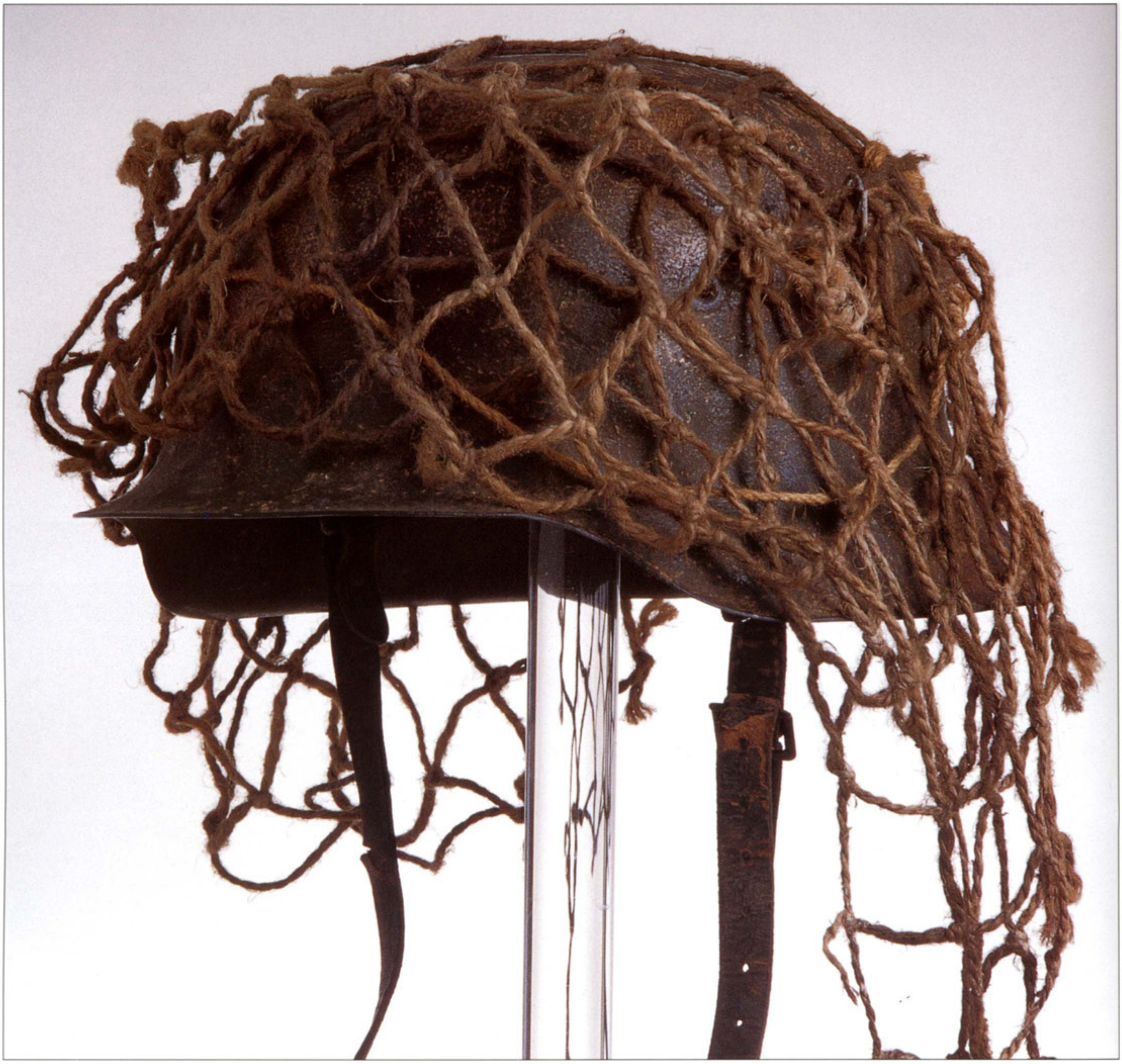




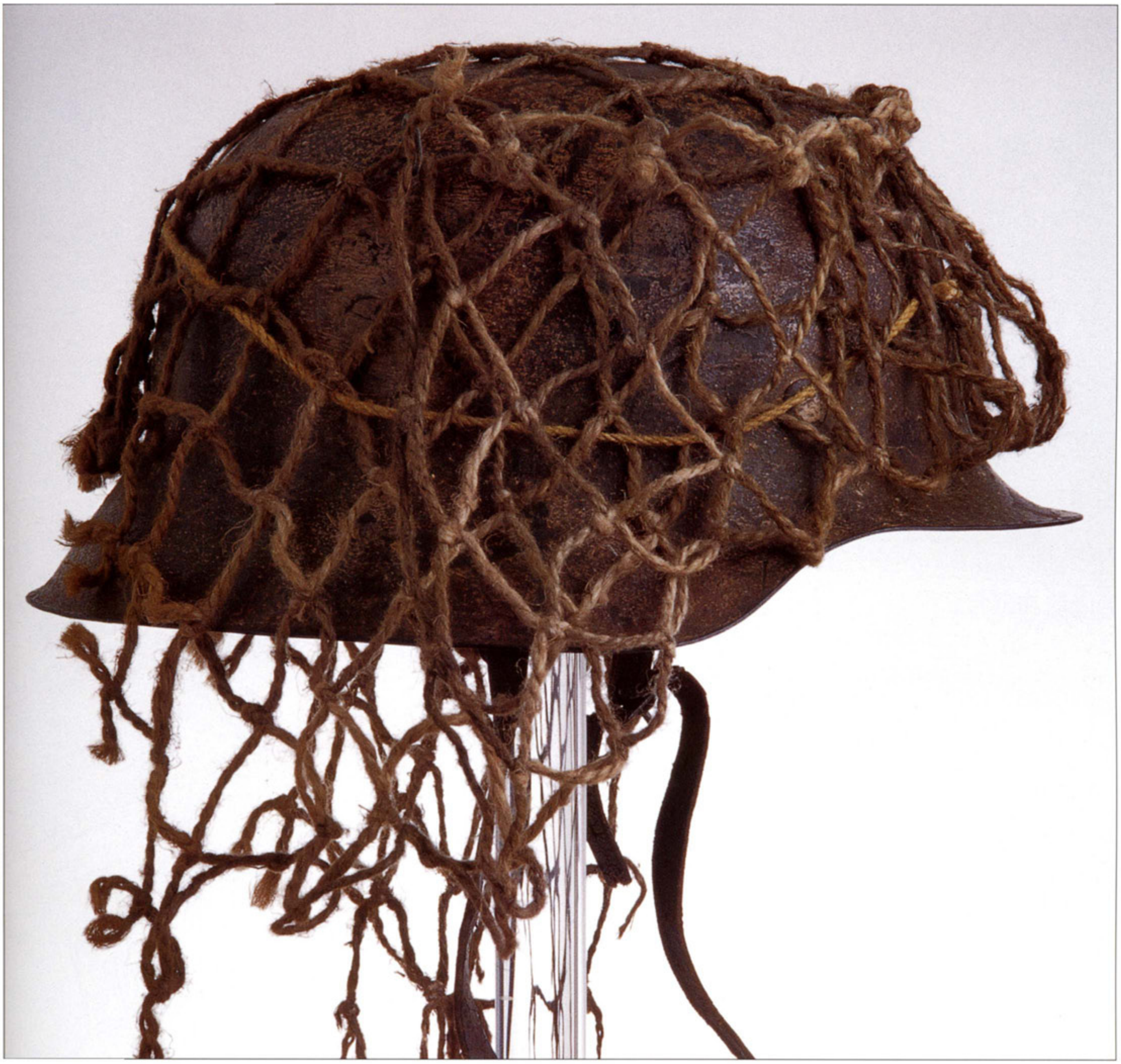


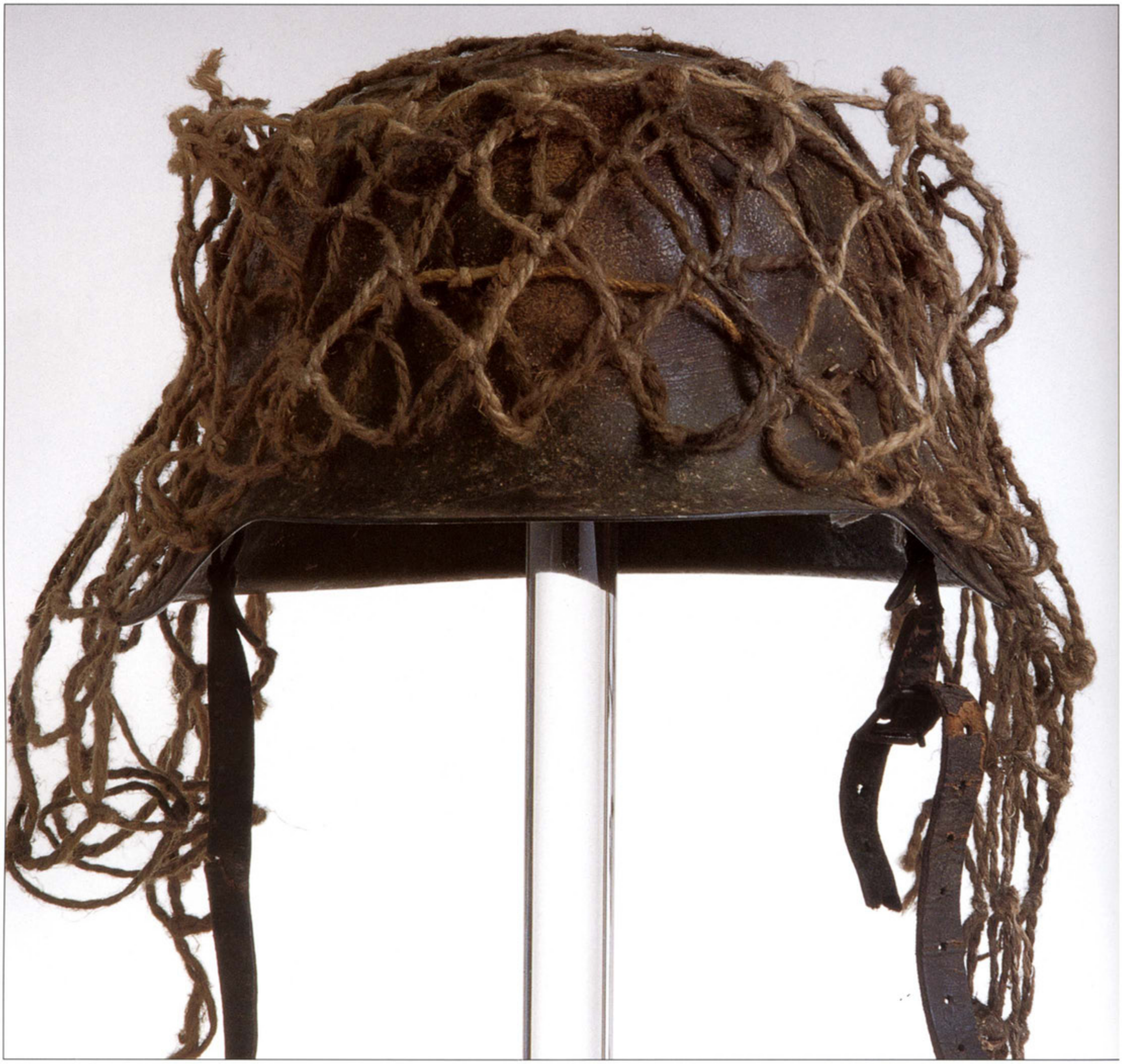


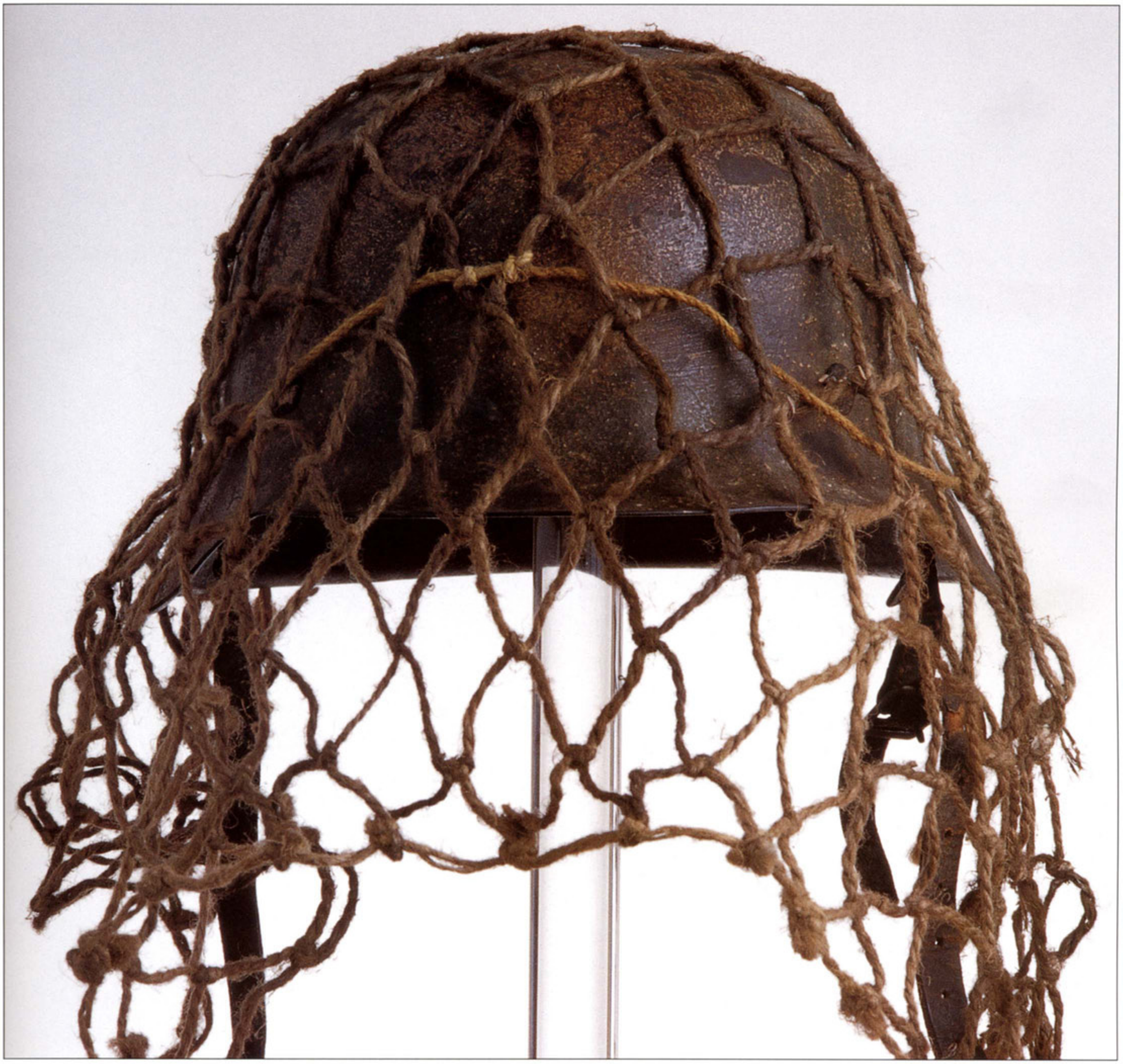
M42, with regulation net secured to the rim by three regulation hooks. (Collection of Phillippe Gillain - December 44 Museum, La Gleize, Ardennes, Belgium)

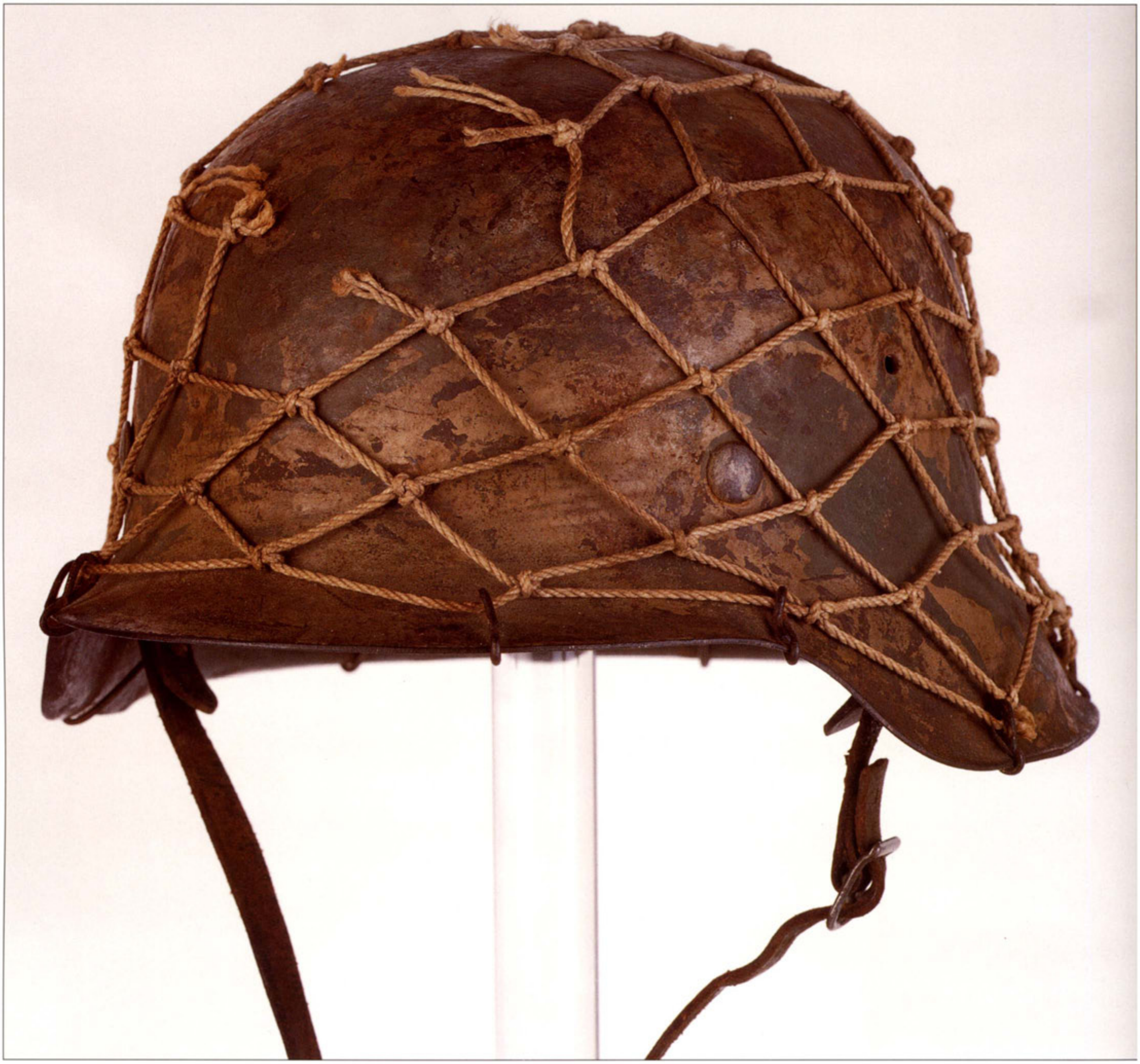


M42, overpainted in tan, green and brown with regulation net showing the face veil held back over the shell by two hooks and in the "down" position for use. (Collection of David Asselin)

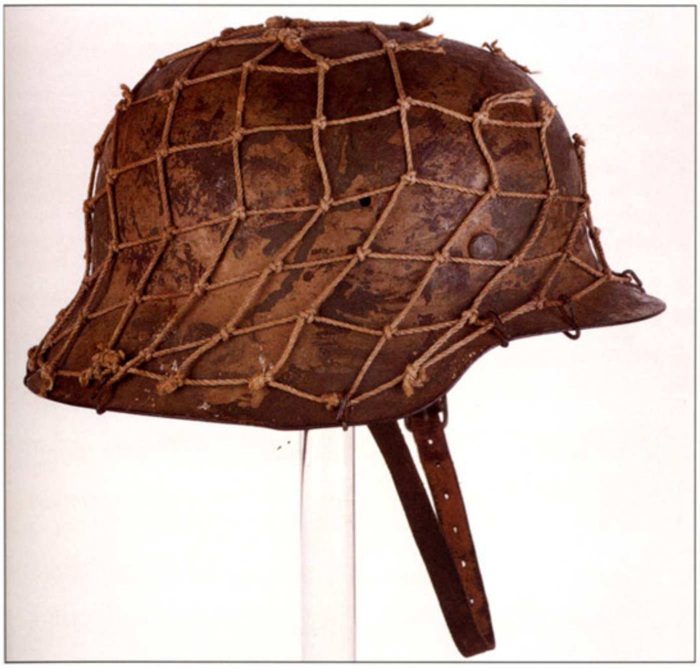


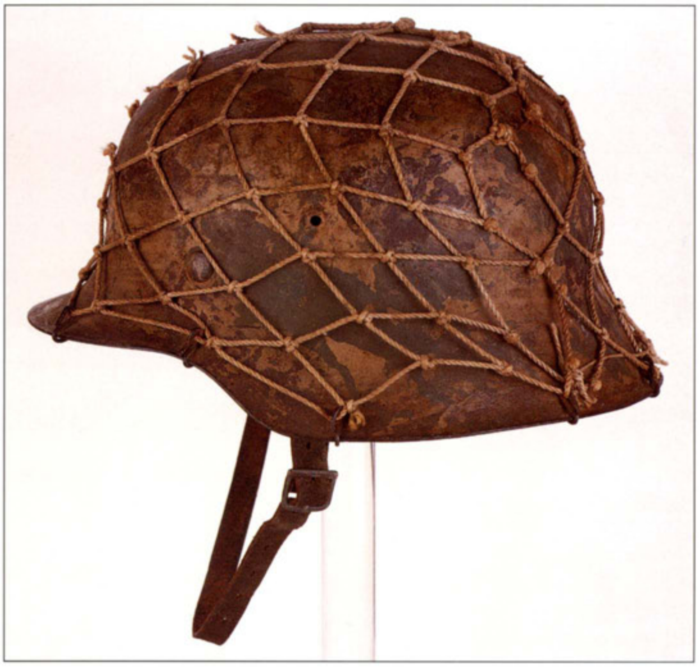


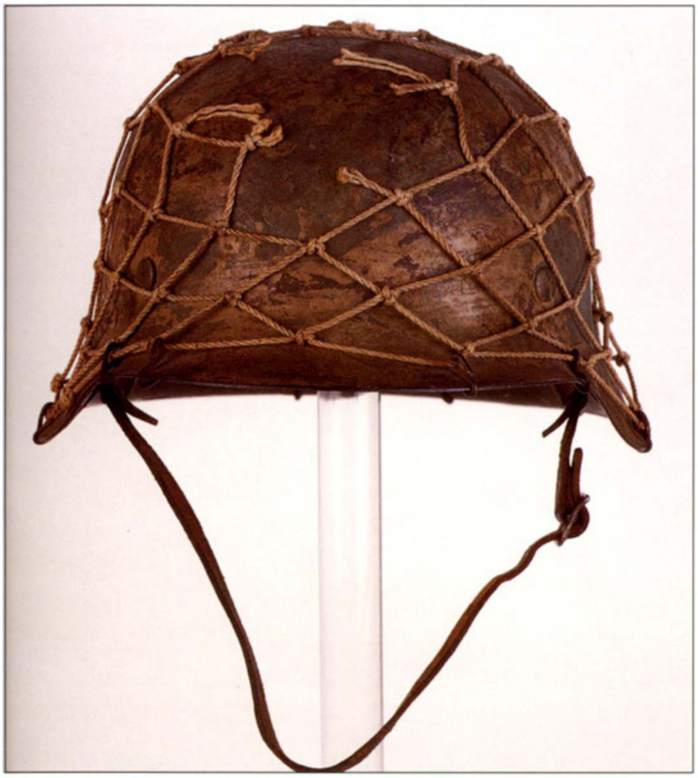


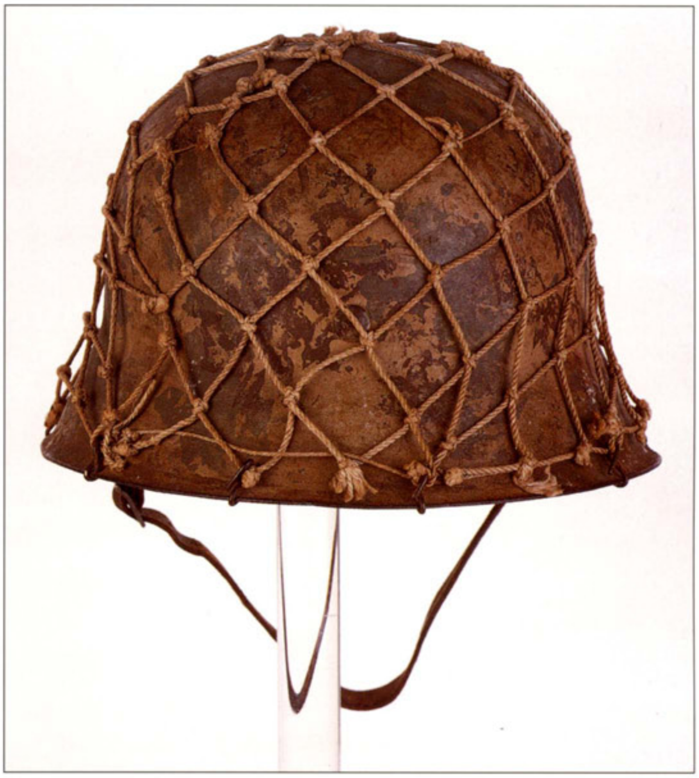


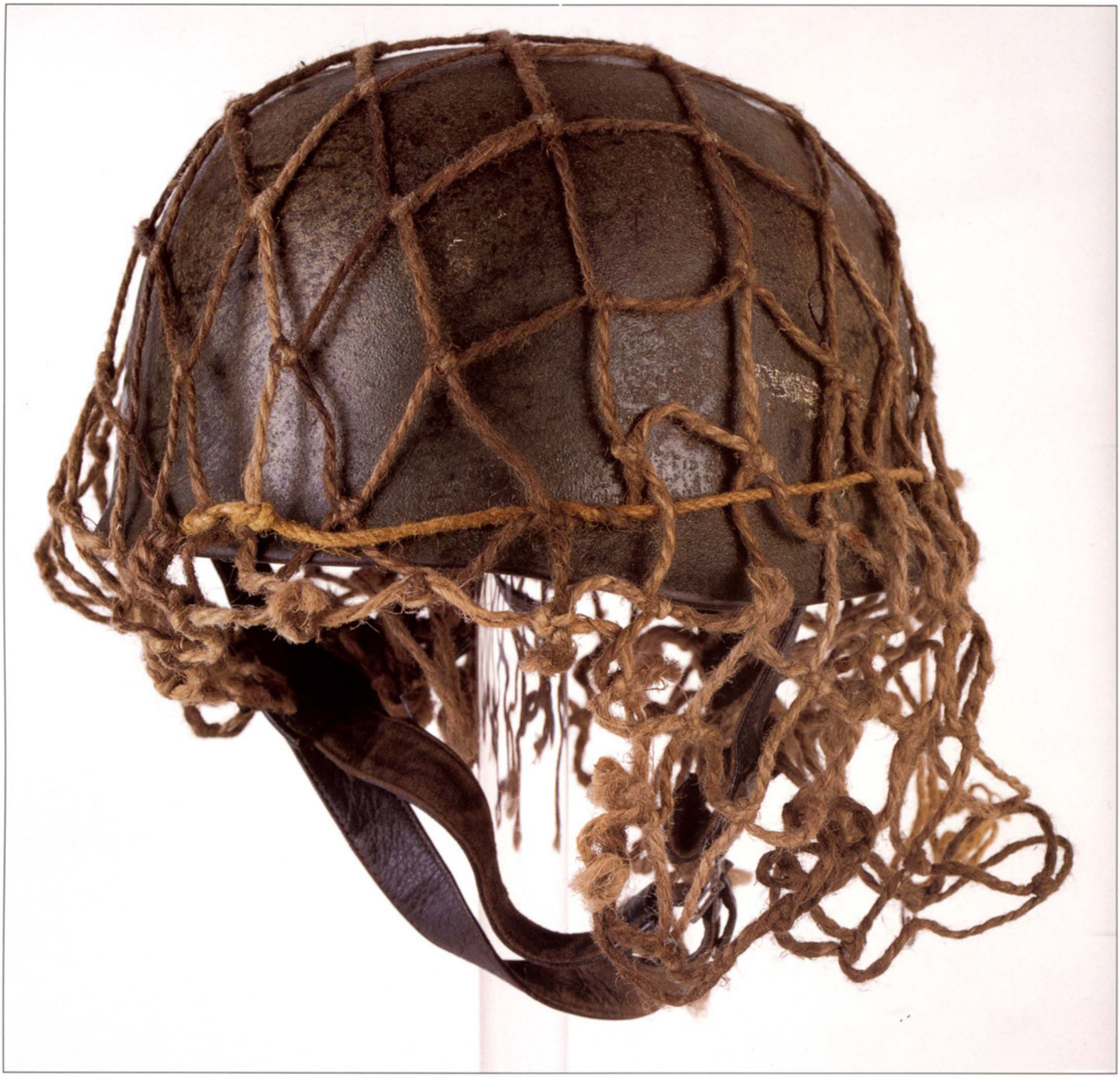
M42, overpainted in tan and patches of green with a twisted cord variation net attached to the rim by nine hooks. (Collection of David Asselin)



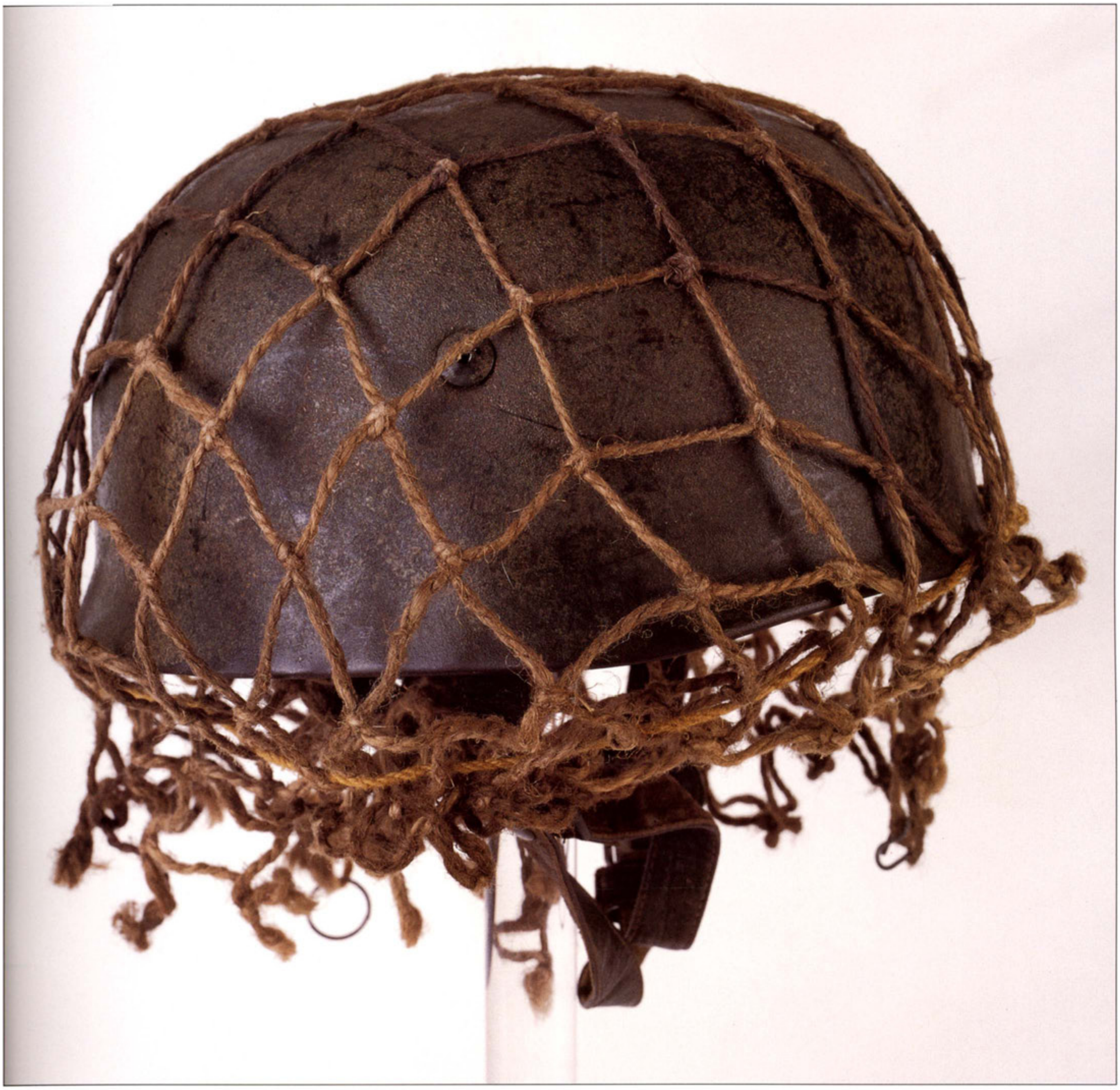




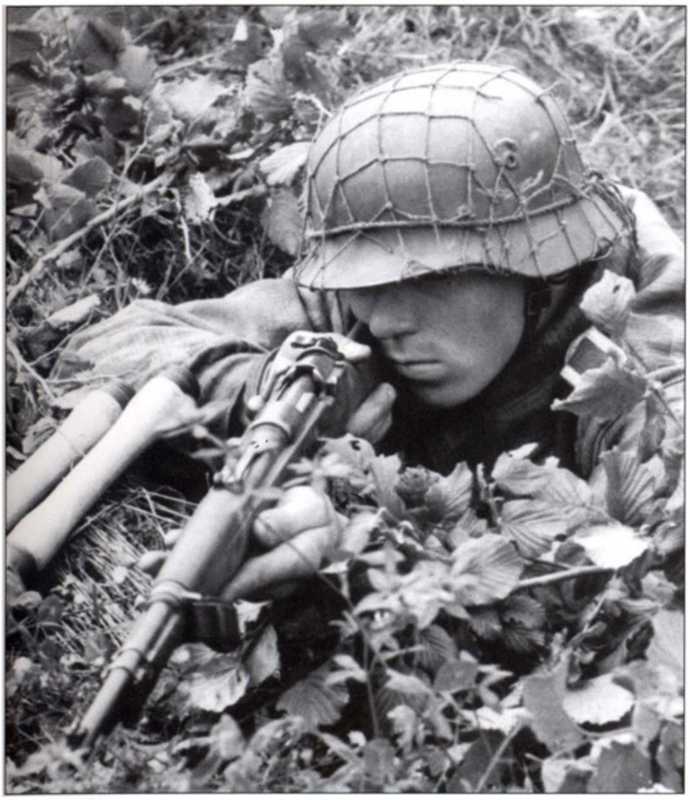


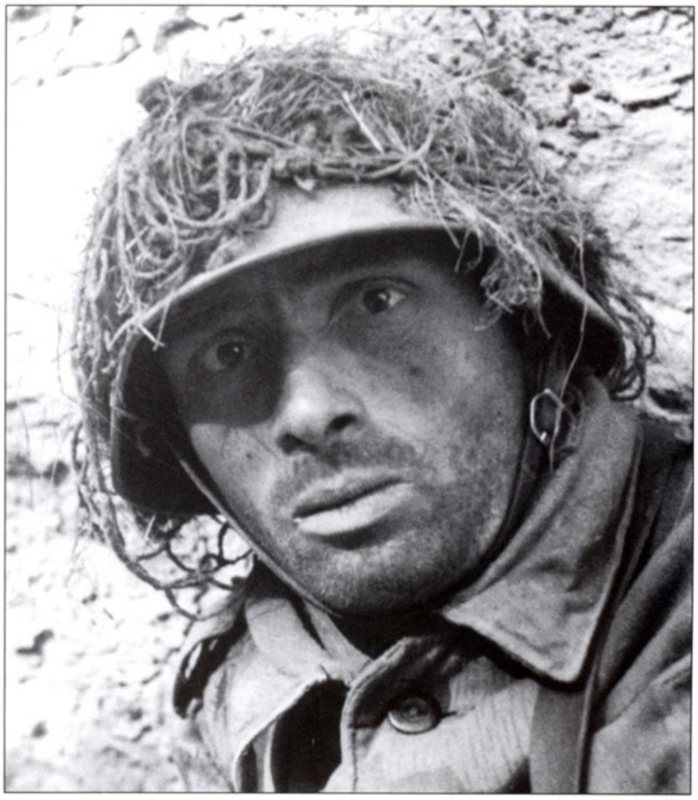


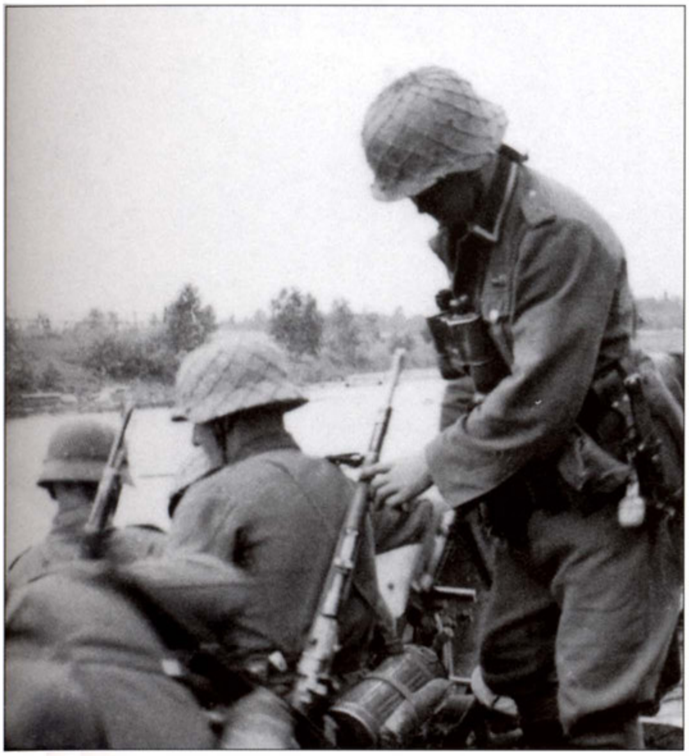
M38, oversprayed in tan and green with the regulation held onto the helmet by gathering the drawstring around the rim. The Luftwaffe second pattern eagle insignia is visible through the paint. (Collection of John Burnett)

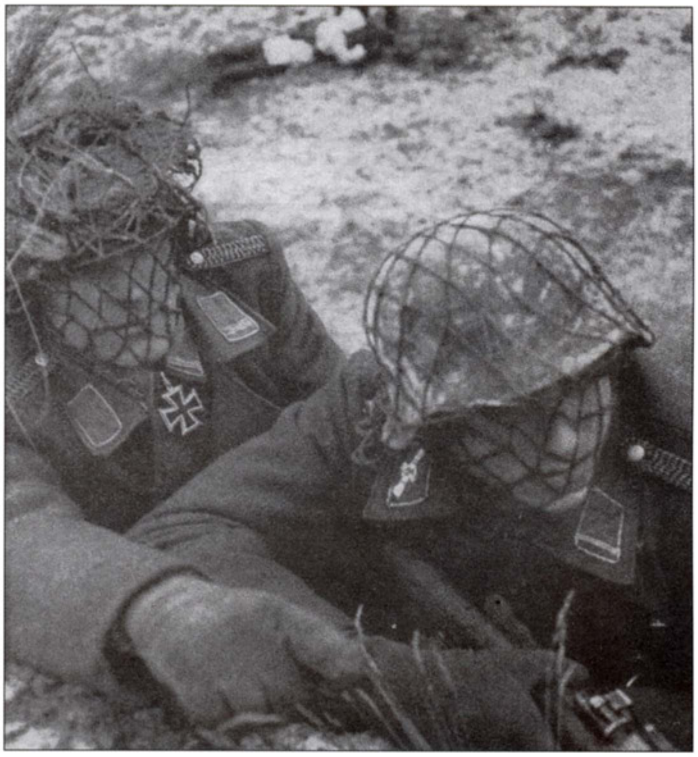


Period Photos







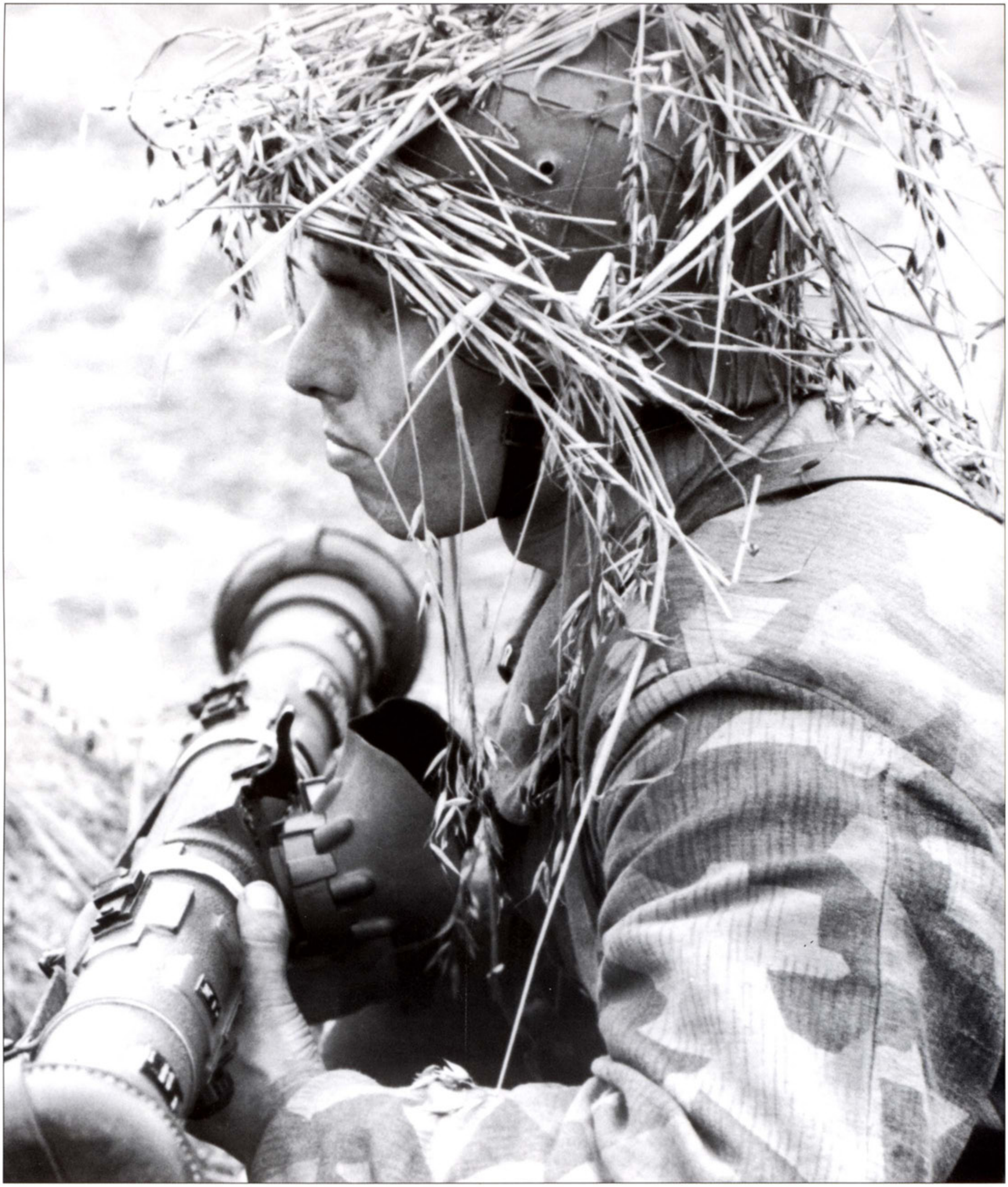


- Top left: A well-used regulation string netting cover worn on an M40 by this Luftwaffe man in his splinter pattern tunic. *(BA)*

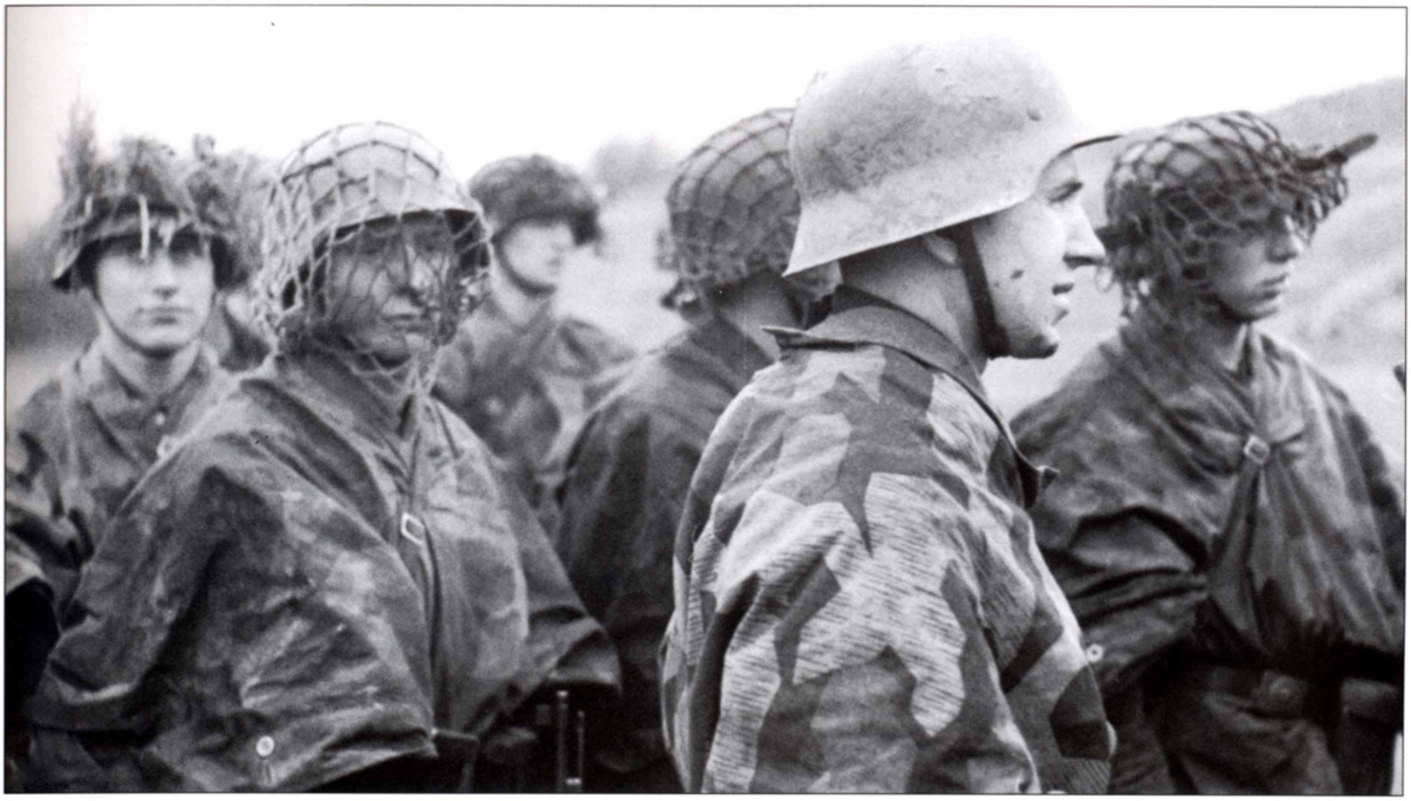
- Top right: This battle-weary man also wears the same netting to which he has added grass as camouflage. *(BA)*

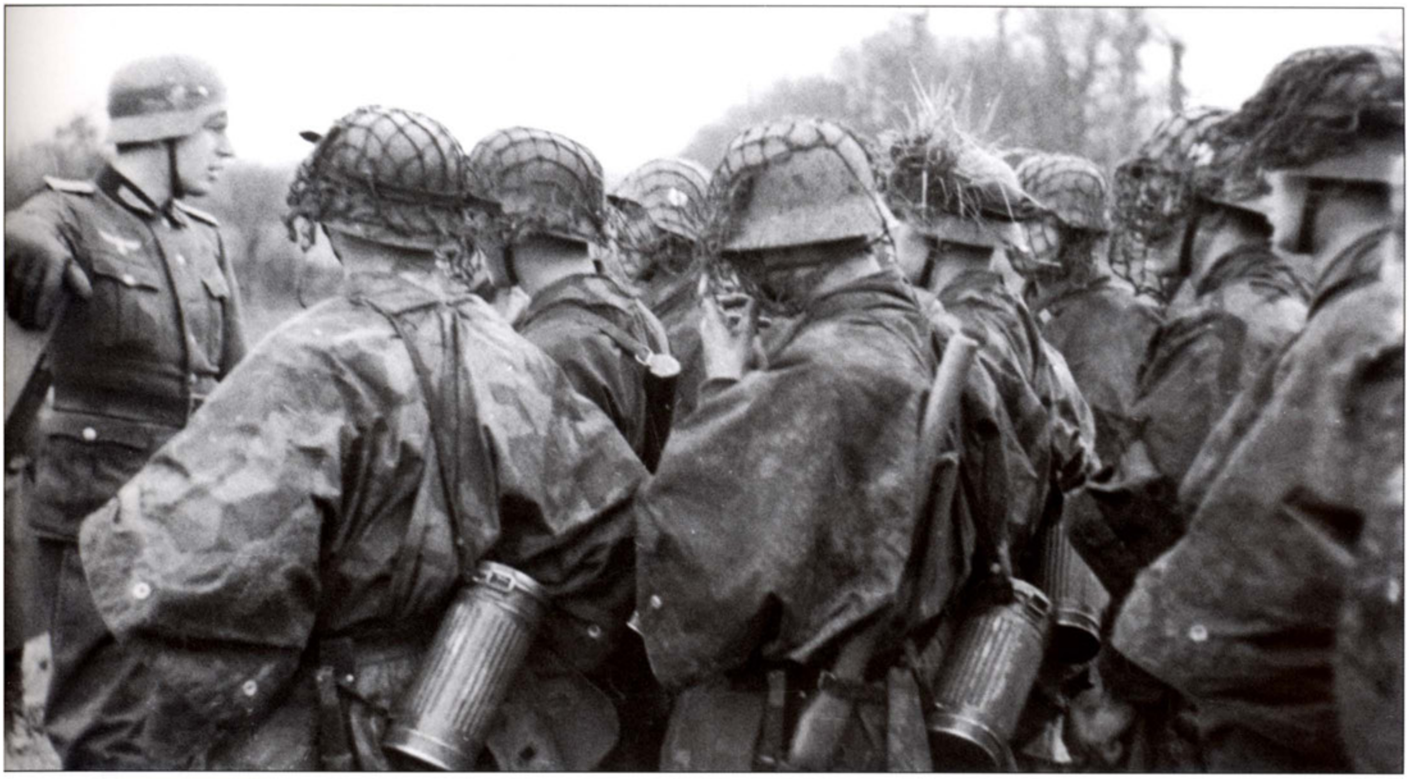
- Bottom left: Some of these men, photographed in 1940-41, are wearing examples of a variant cover. This type, made of thicker string, is gathered around the top and adjusted there for fitting to the helmet. It is secured to the rim by 7 or 8 metal hooks punched out of flat sheeting with a hole to thread the string through. *(Author)*

- Bottom right: 1945 photograph of *Feldherrenhalle* men facing the Soviet invasion. They have the regulation netting covers over their camouflage painted helmets, with face veils in place. *(Author)*



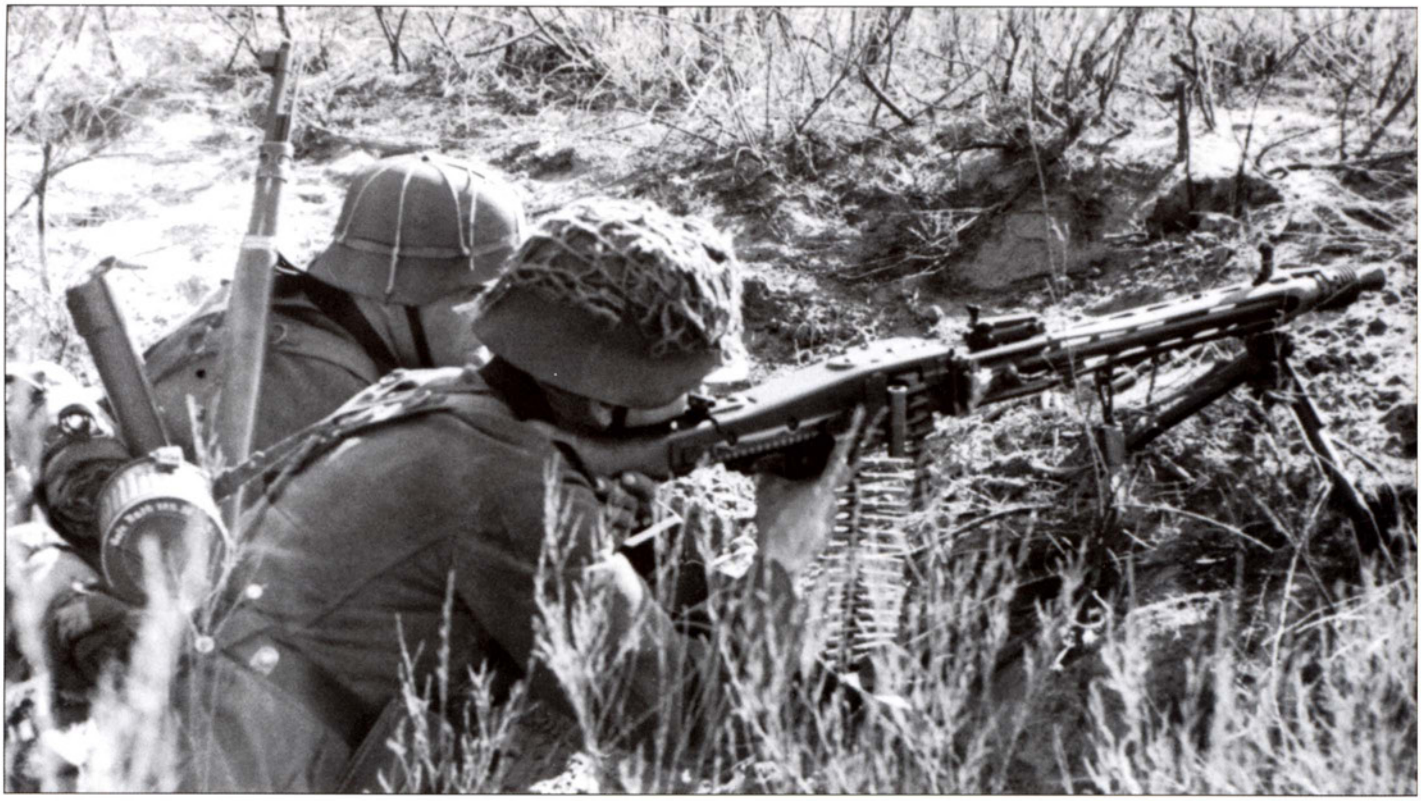
A soldier with rangefinder wearing a netting cover, very similar to the regulation type, but with slightly thinner string with hay threaded through making an effective camouflage. *(BA)*

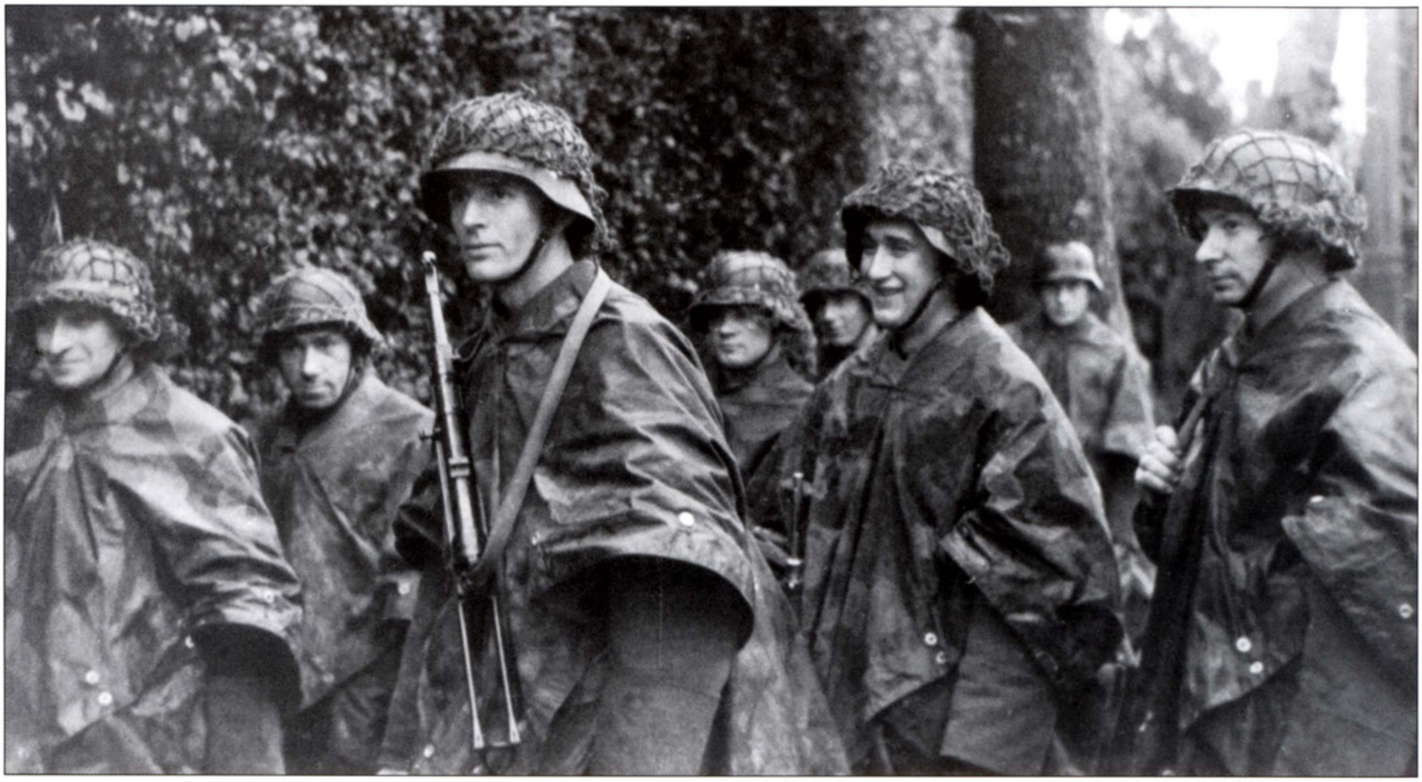




Top: An interesting collection of netting covers. The man on the left is wearing the regulation type with its face veil dropped into place. The two men in the background are wearing the later style netting with face veil, made from a thicker woven string, which was often dyed green. *(BA)*

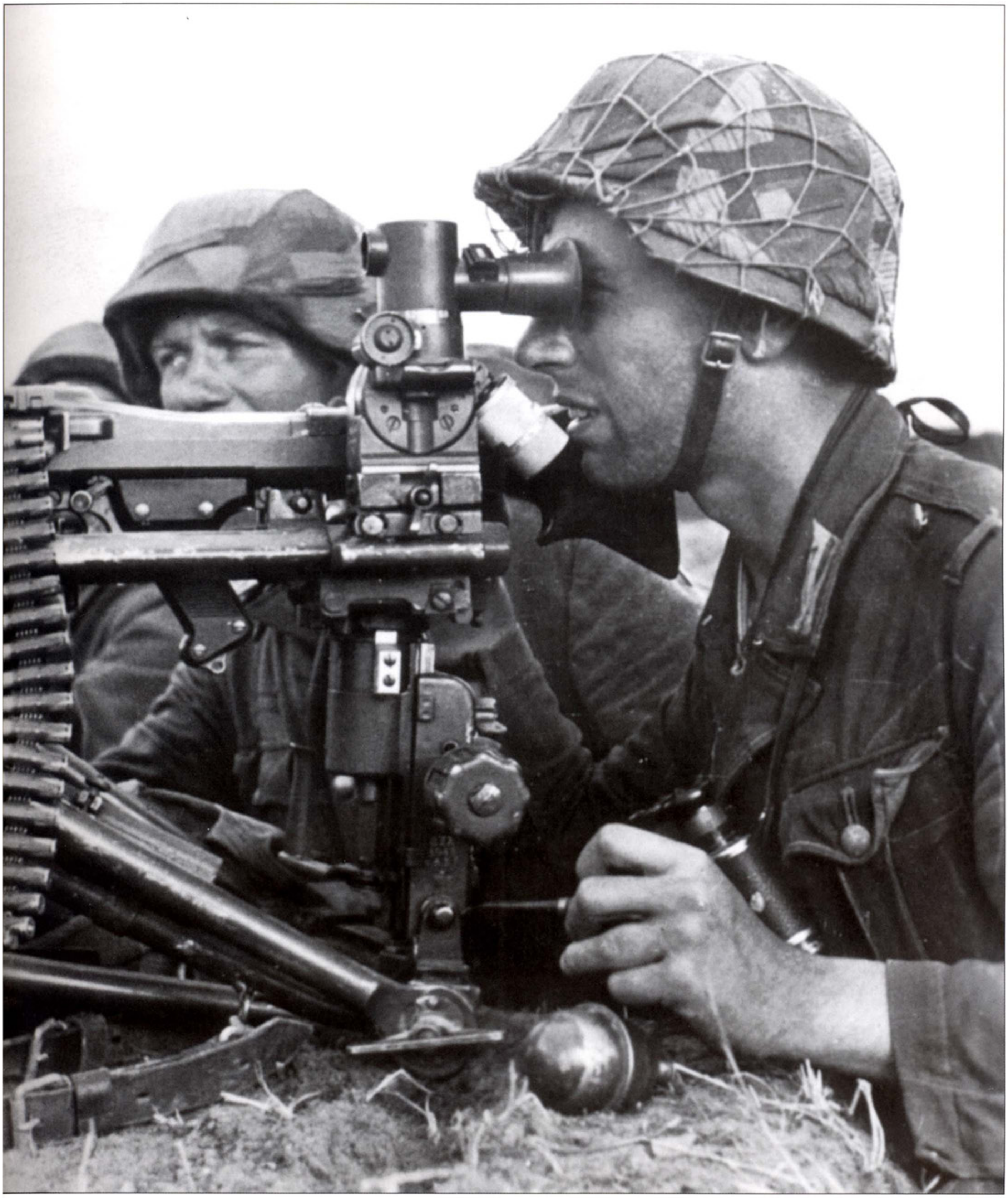
Bottom: Another view of the same group of men. *(BA)*



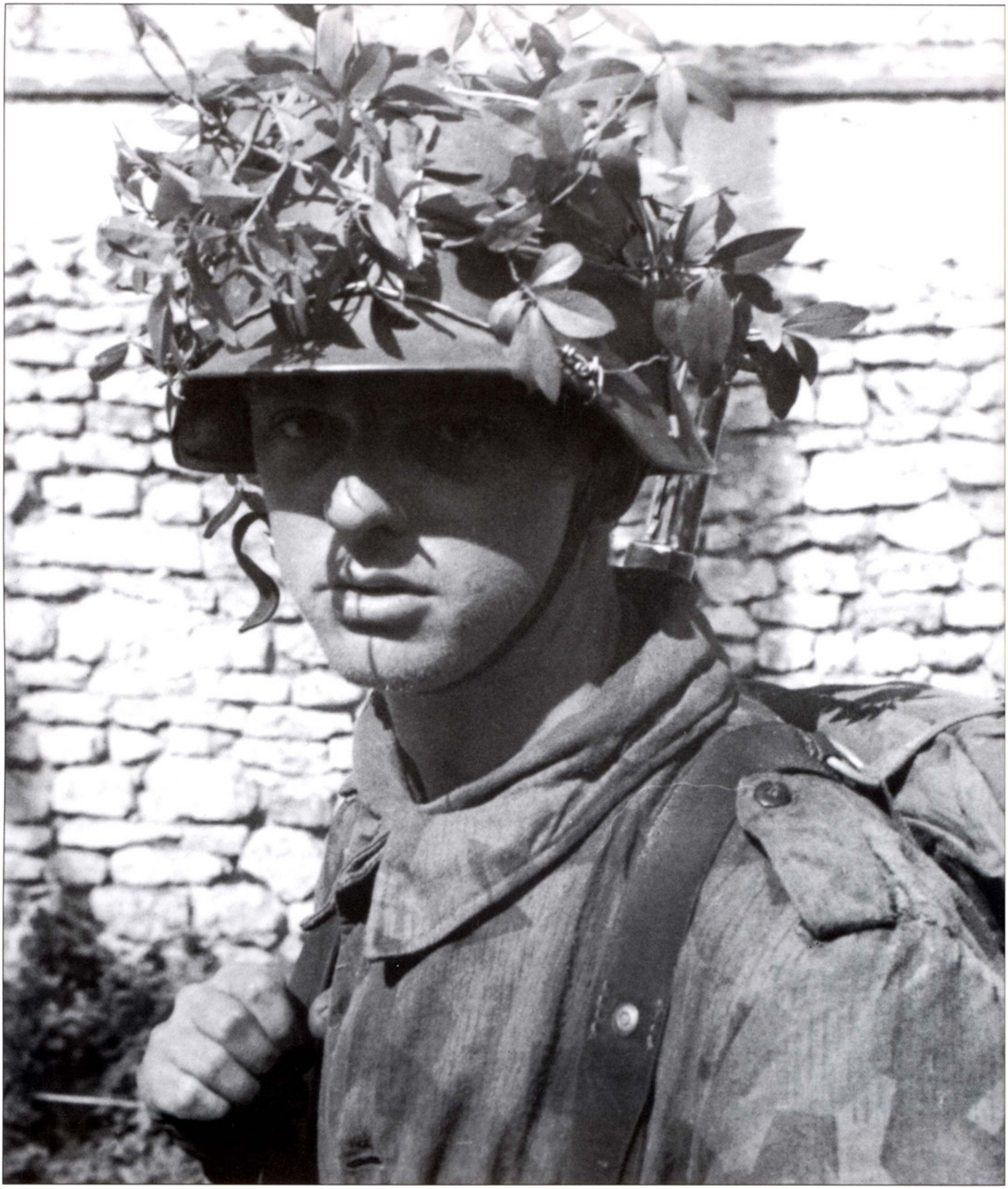


Top: Two soldiers manning an MG42. The loader wears a homemade string cover while the gunner wears the more common regulation type. *(BA)*

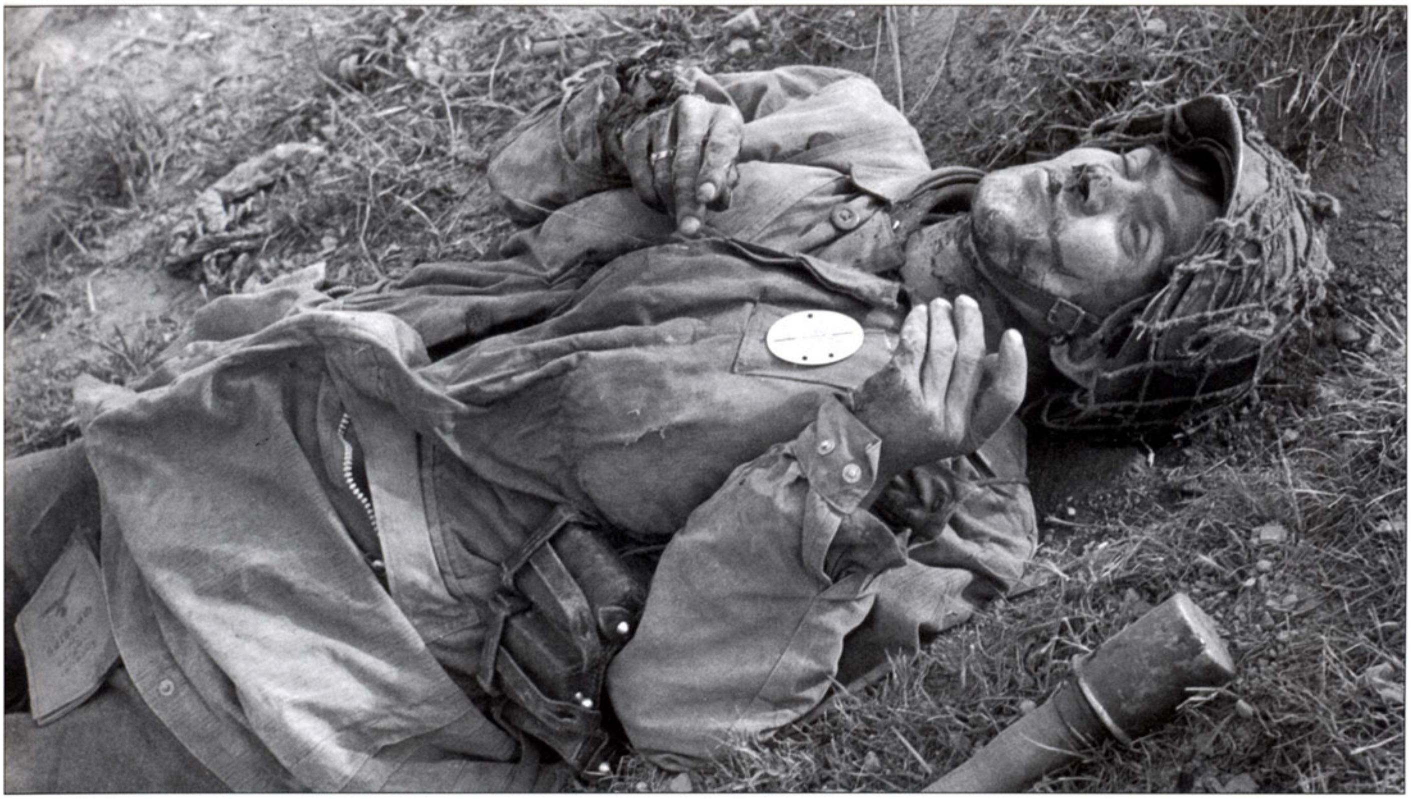
Bottom: In this late-war image, most of the men seem to be wearing the thicker variant of netting cover except, possibly, the second man from left and the last on the right. (BA)

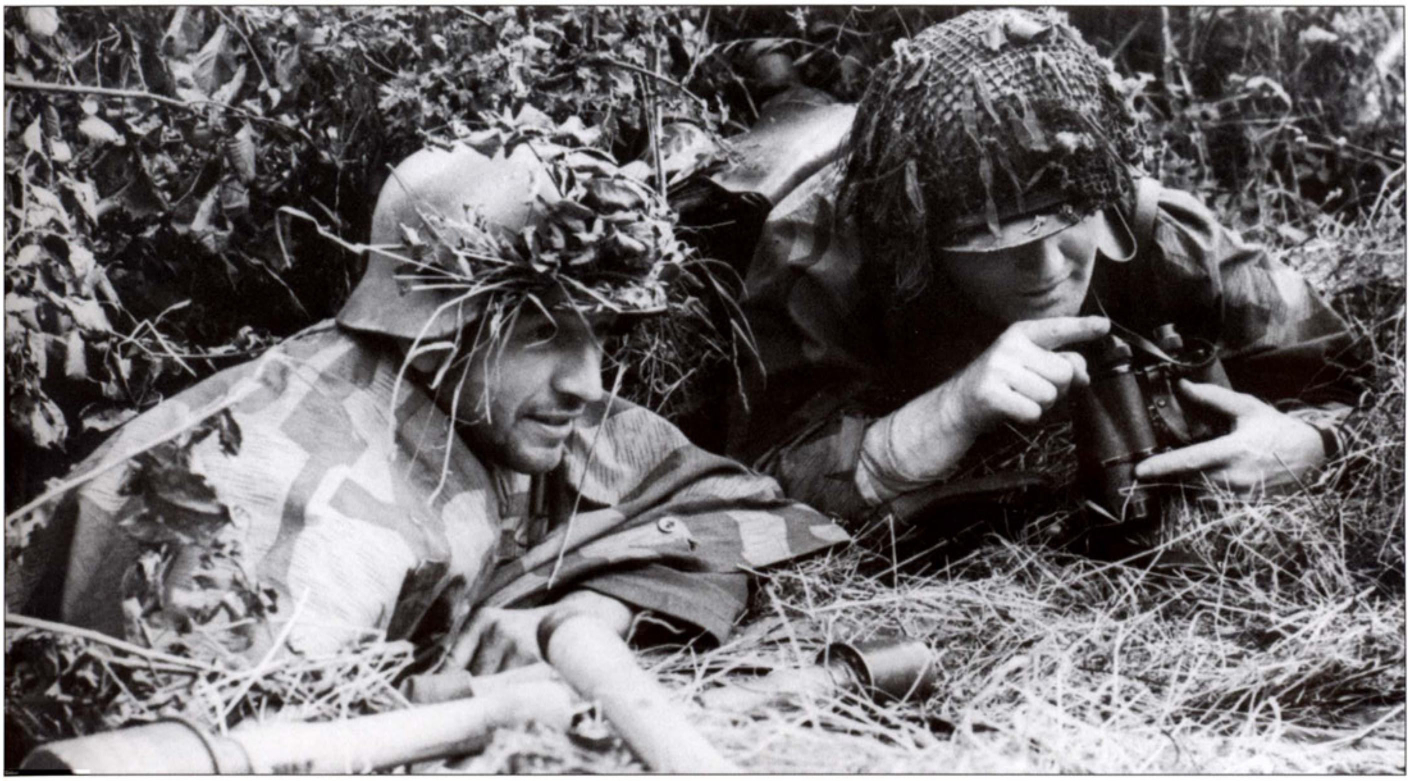


Taken in July 1943, the crew of this heavy MG34 are all wearing the splinter pattern drawstring cover, while the gunner himself is wearing a regulation netting cover underneath. *(Author)*



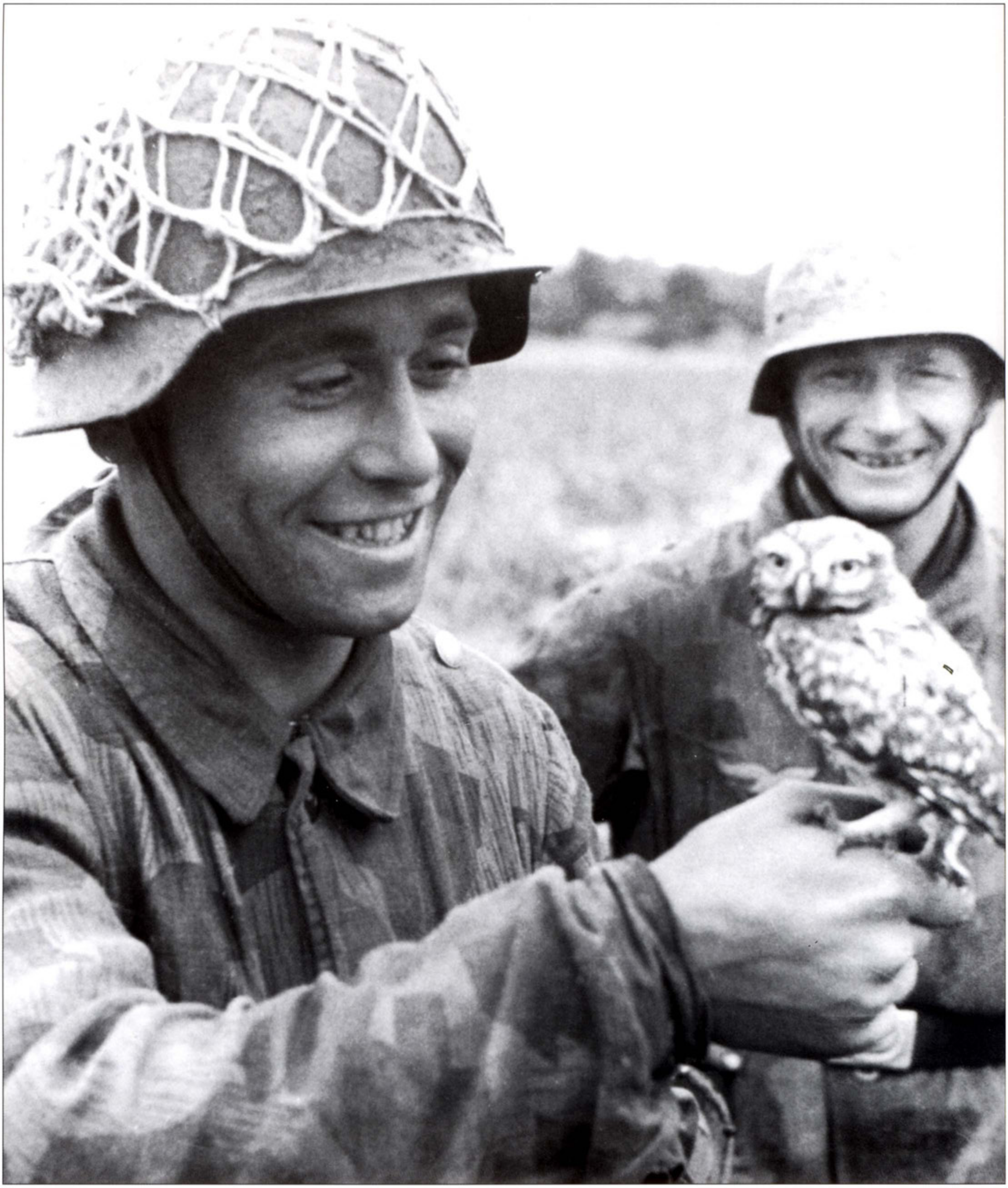
This young grenadier has a homemade string cover with added foliage. *(BA)*



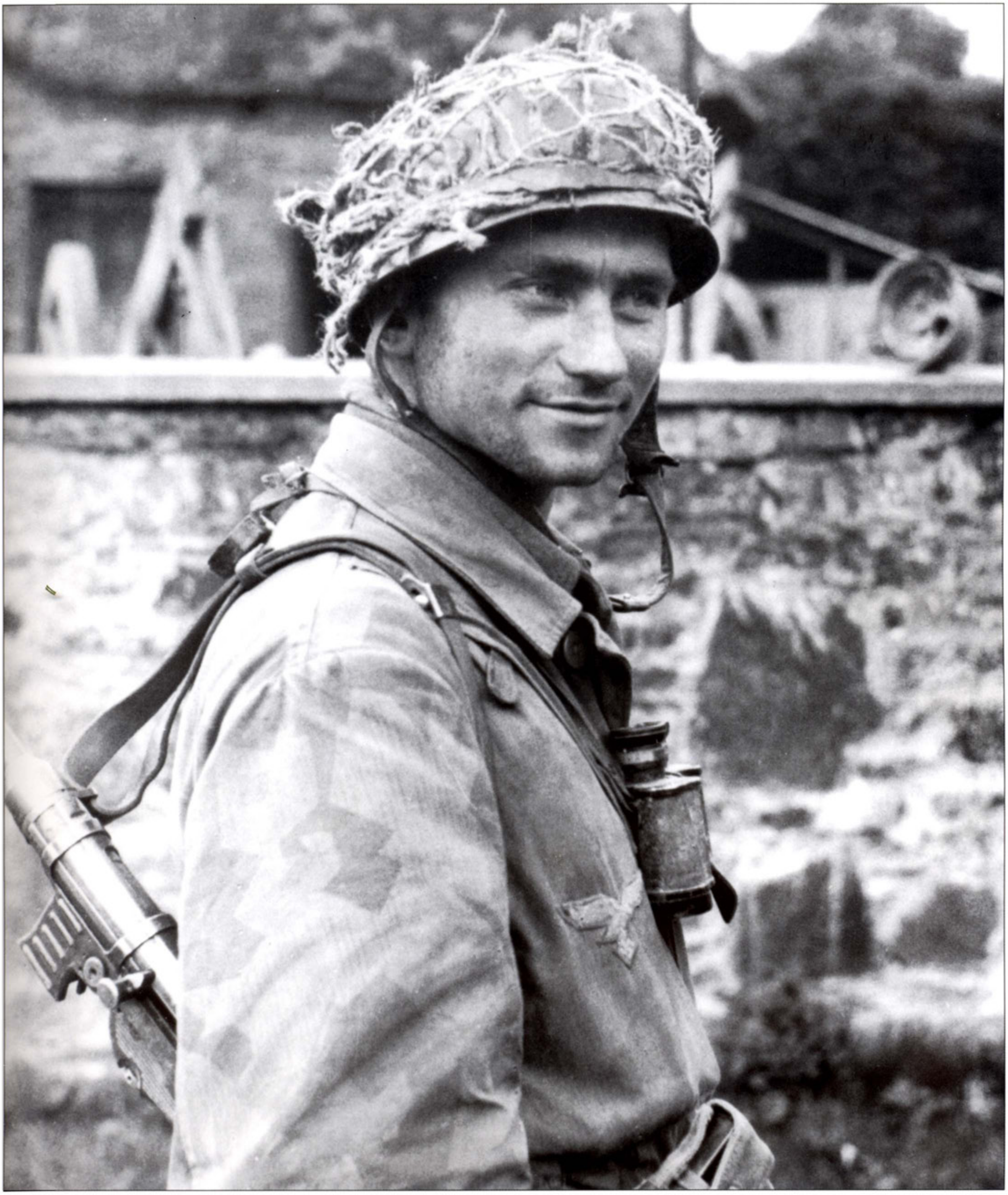


■ Top: This dead soldier, wearing a *Fallschirmjäger* jump smock, has a netting cover over his M35/M40. *(IWM)*

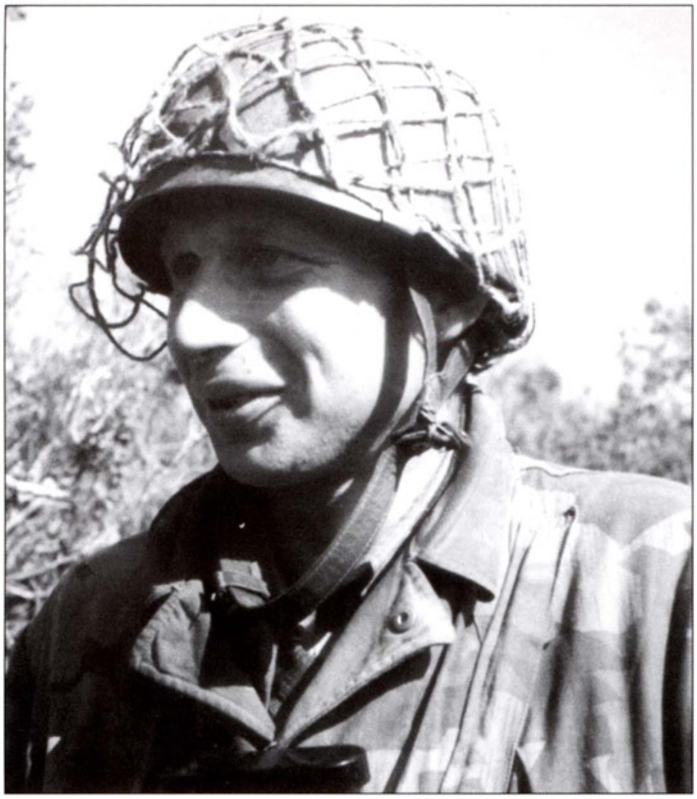
■ Bottom: The man on the left has a single strand of wire passed through and between the vent holes of his M35/M40 helmet with foliage attached. His comrade would appear to be making use of a captured U.S. or British netting cover. *(BA)*

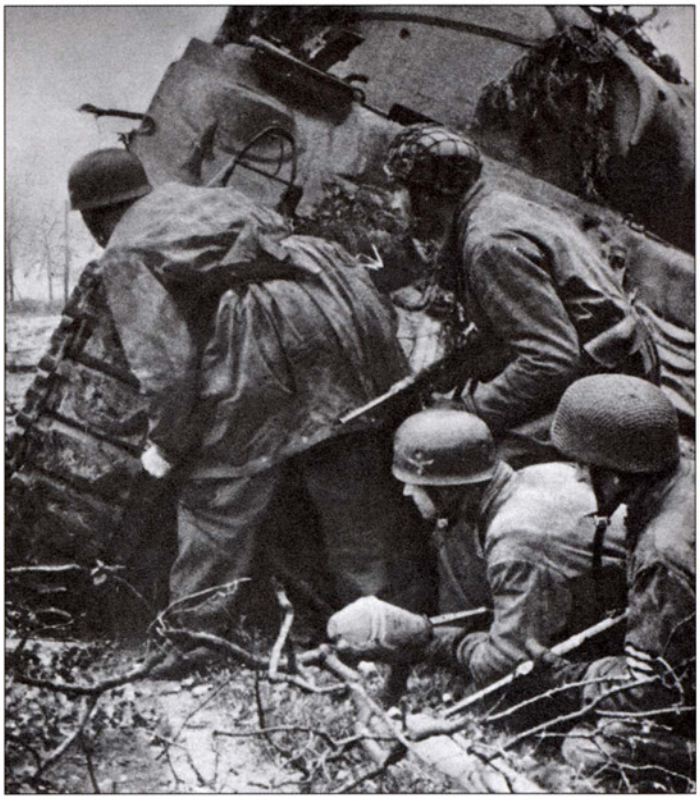


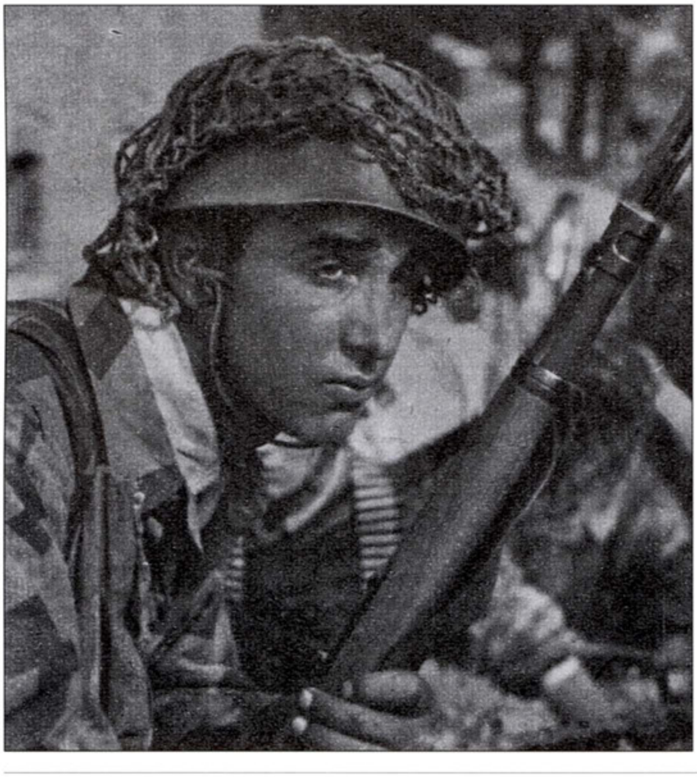
■ A textured camouflage helmet with regulation netting cover. *(BA)*

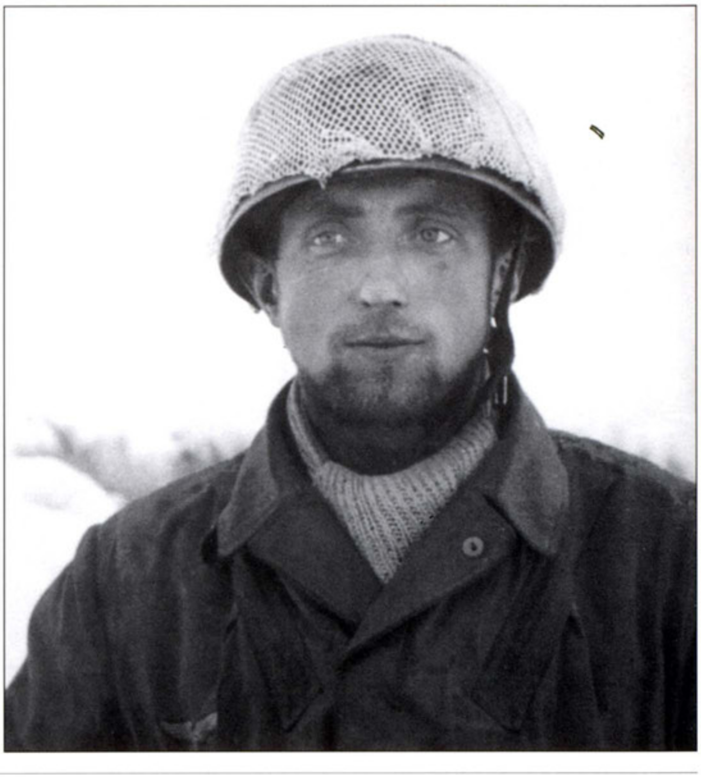


This *Fallschirmjäger* (possibly in Normandy) wears the regulation netting cover, secured to his M38 by a rubber innertube. *(BA)*







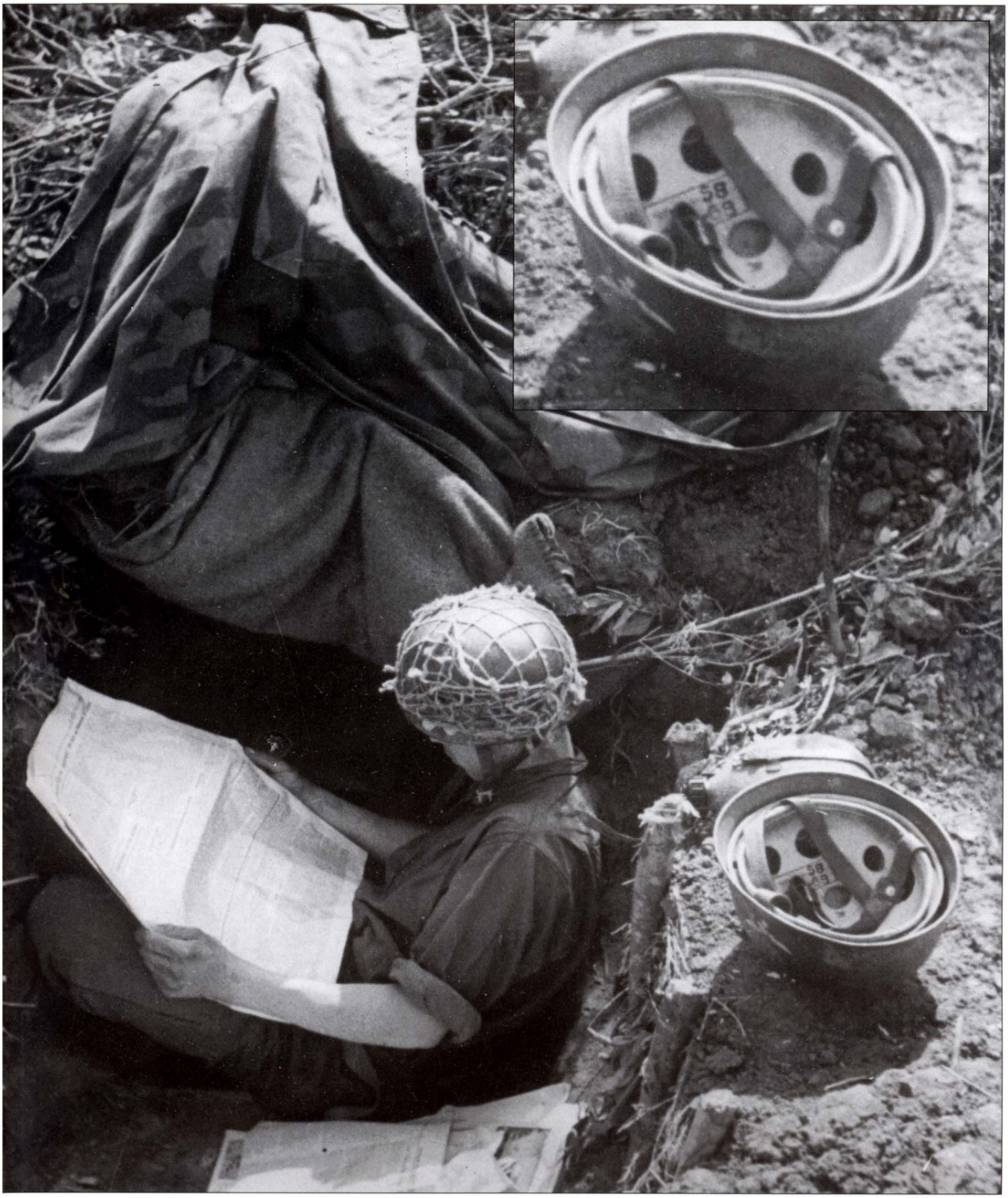


- Top left: This *Fallschirmjäger* has secured his regulation netting cover to his helmet by homemade flat metal hooks. *(BA)*

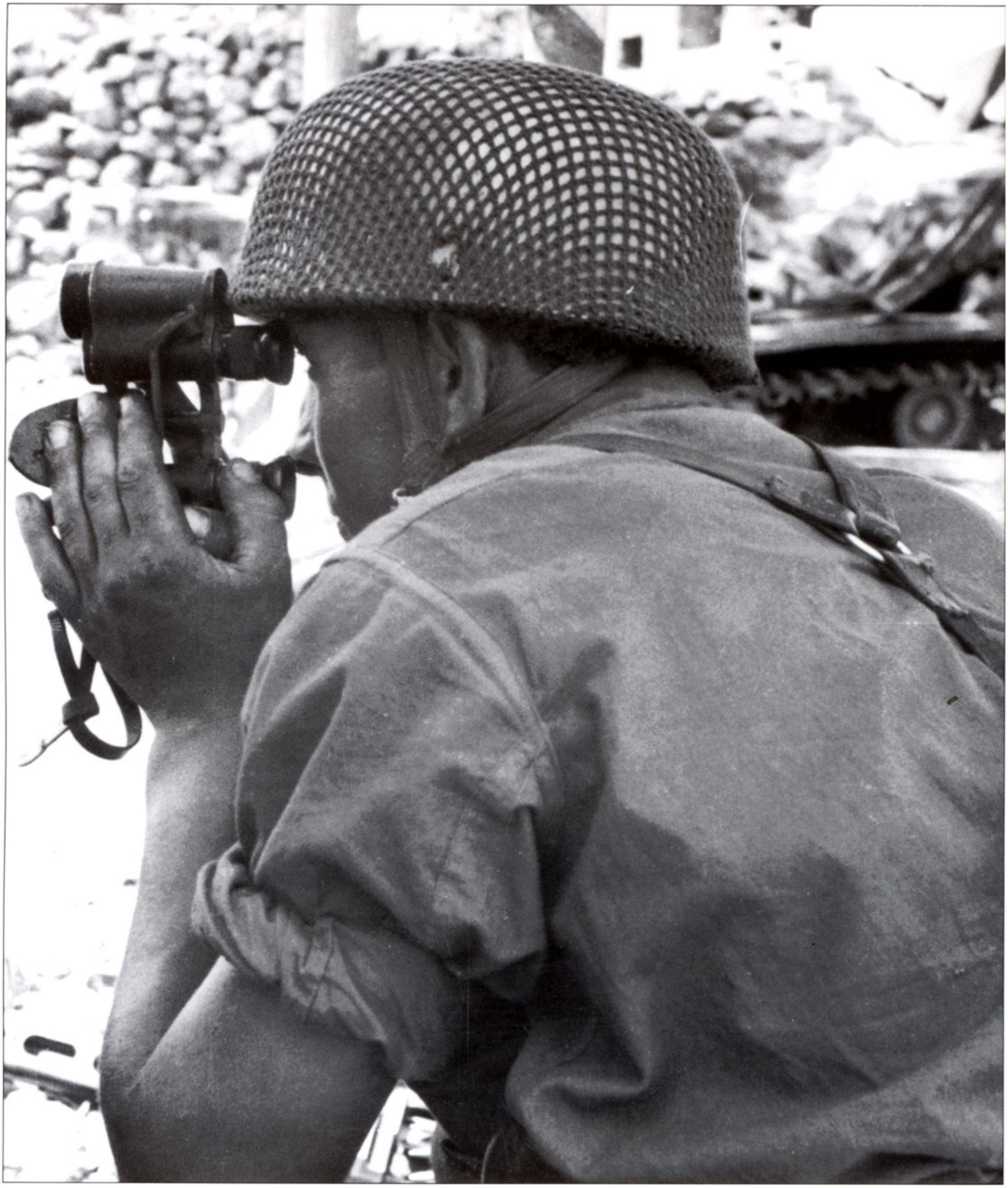
- Top right: A group of *Fallschirmjäger* take cover behind a destroyed Sherman tank near Cassino. The man at the top is wearing the regulation netting, while his comrade below wears a U.S. or British version. *(Author)*

- Bottom left: This young *Fallschirmjäger* in Italy is wearing a thick string variation netting cover. *(Author)*

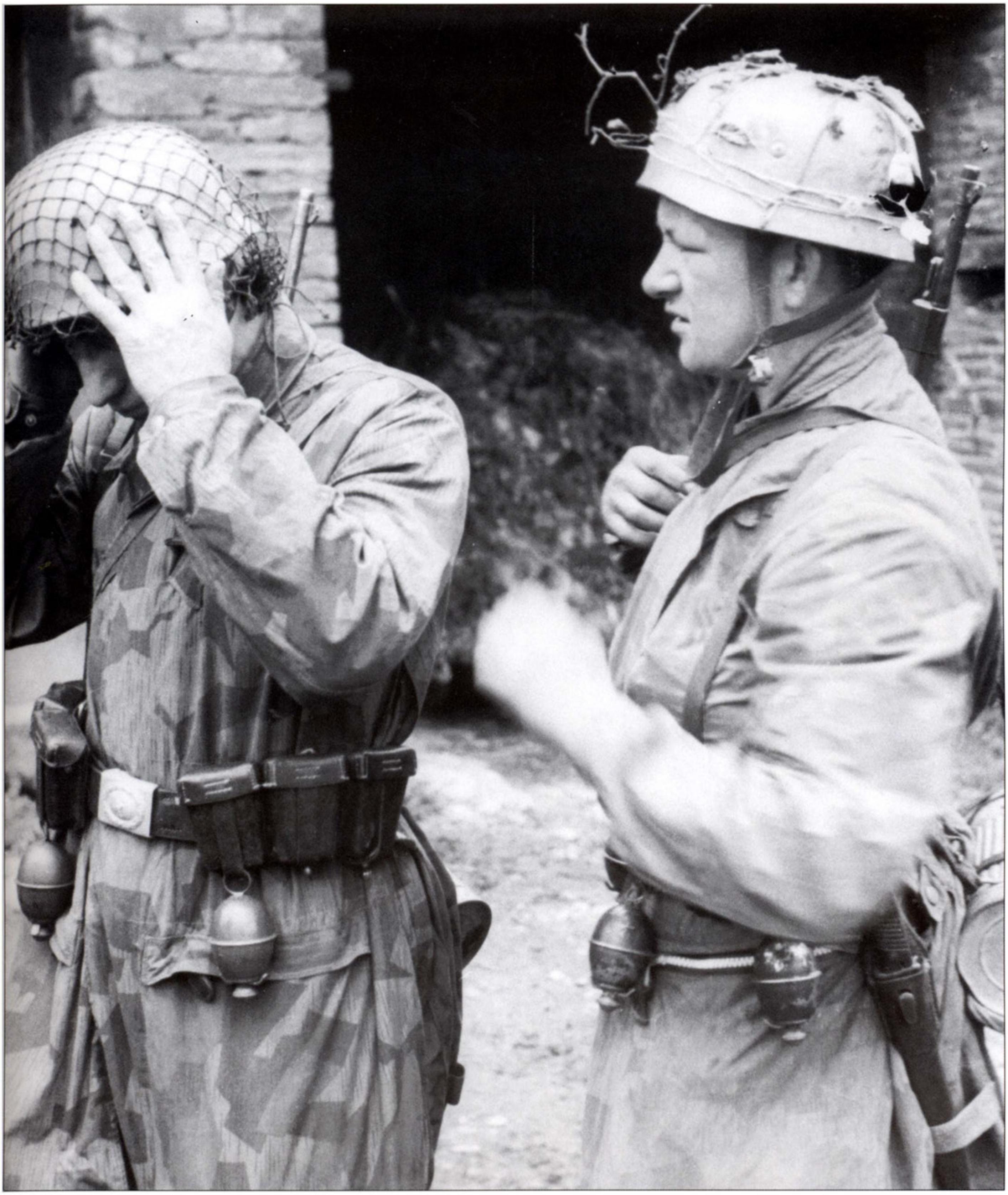
- Bottom right: A *Fallschirmjäger* in the USSR is wearing a white non-regulation netting cover. It may be attached to the helmet by hooks and is probably to camouflage against the snow rather than to, add foliage. *(Author)*



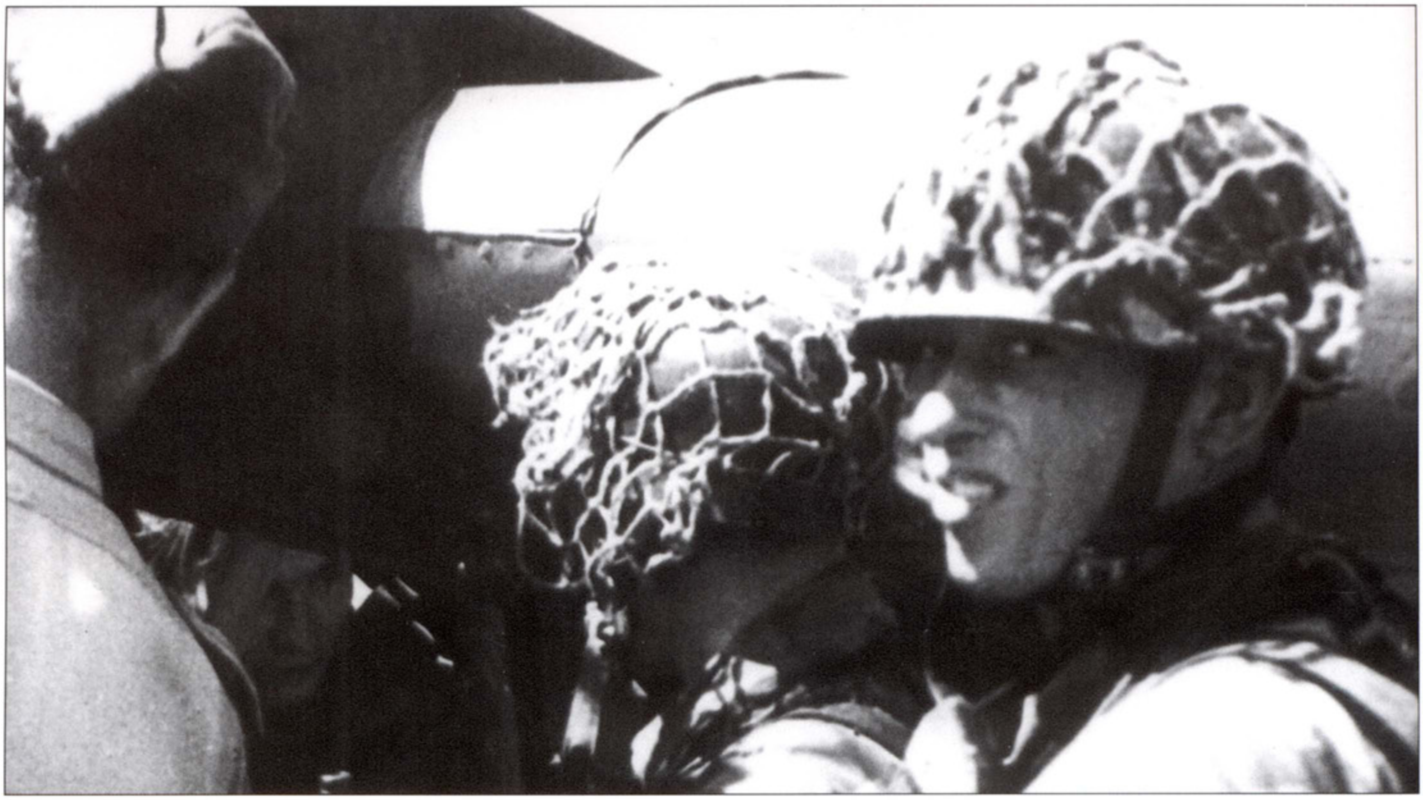
A *Fallschirmjäger* resting in his foxhole, his regulation netting-cover on his helmet. Nearby lies an upturned M38, affording an excellent view of the liner, with its ink size stamping and sweat marks. *(BA)*

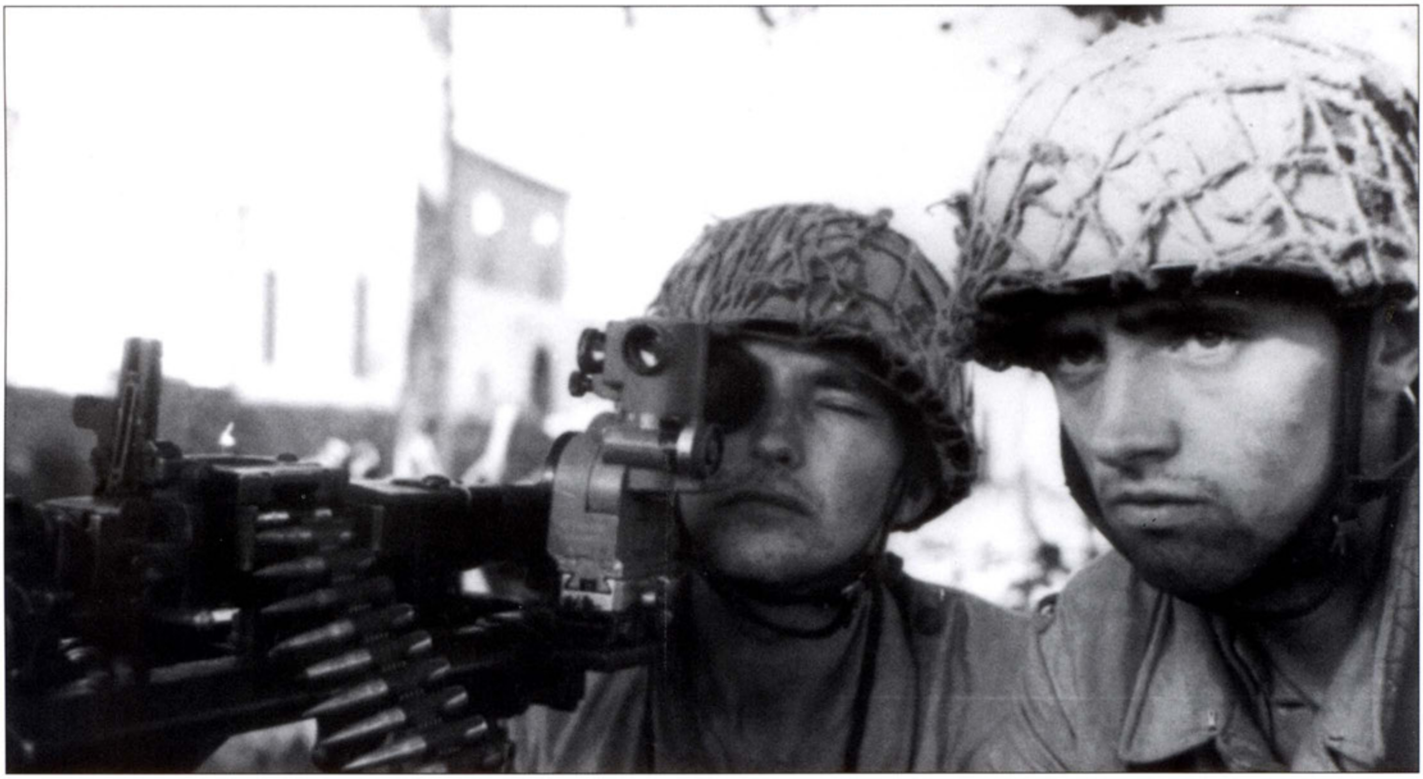


This *Fallschirmjäger* in Italy is wearing a captured U.S. or British netting cover, apparently to darken his light or white painted camouflage helmet. *(BA)*



The *Fallschirmjäger* on the left is removing his tan-coloured M38 with captured U.S. netting cover. His comrade also has a light tan M38 with thin string wound around for attaching foliage. *(BA)*

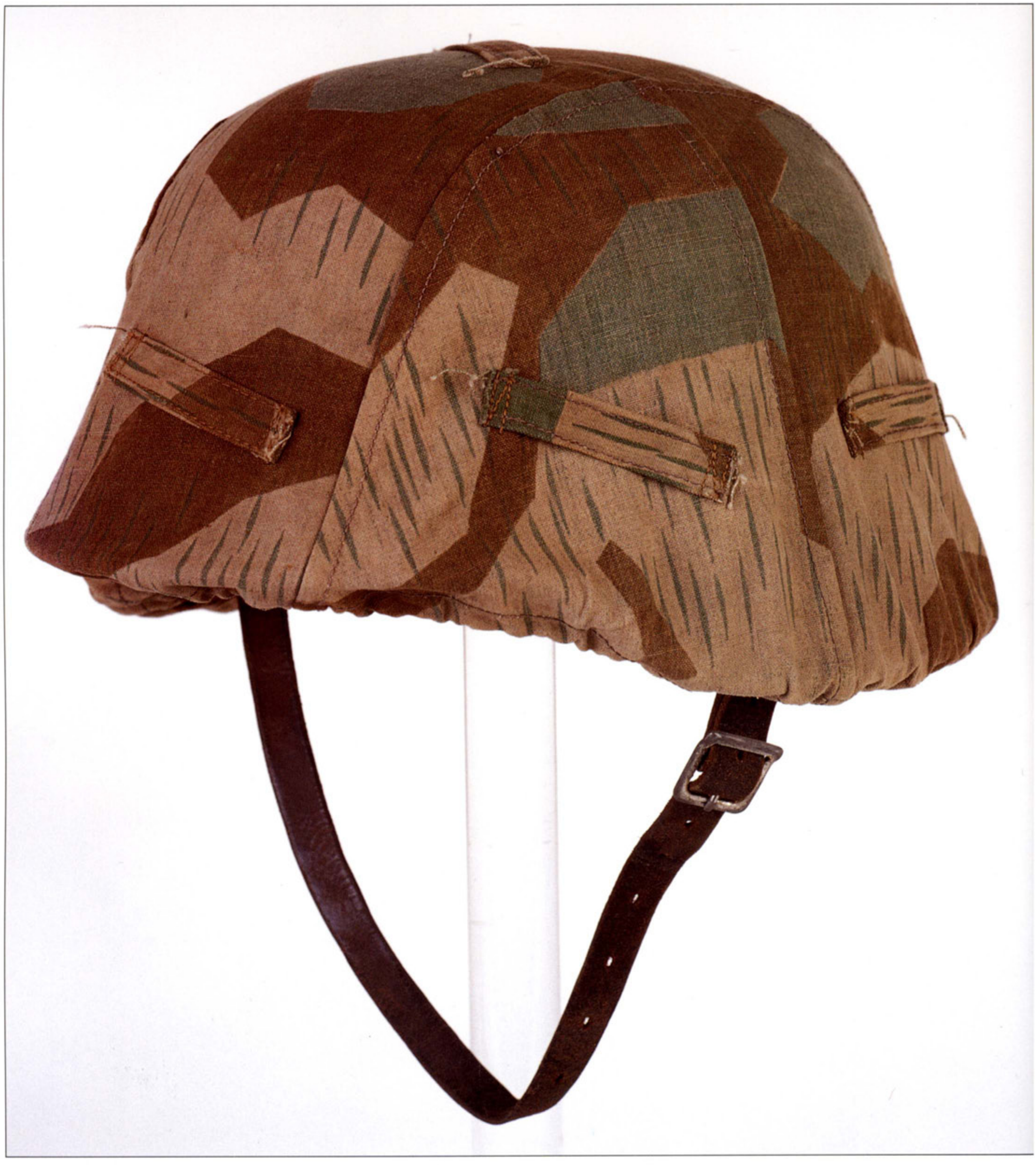




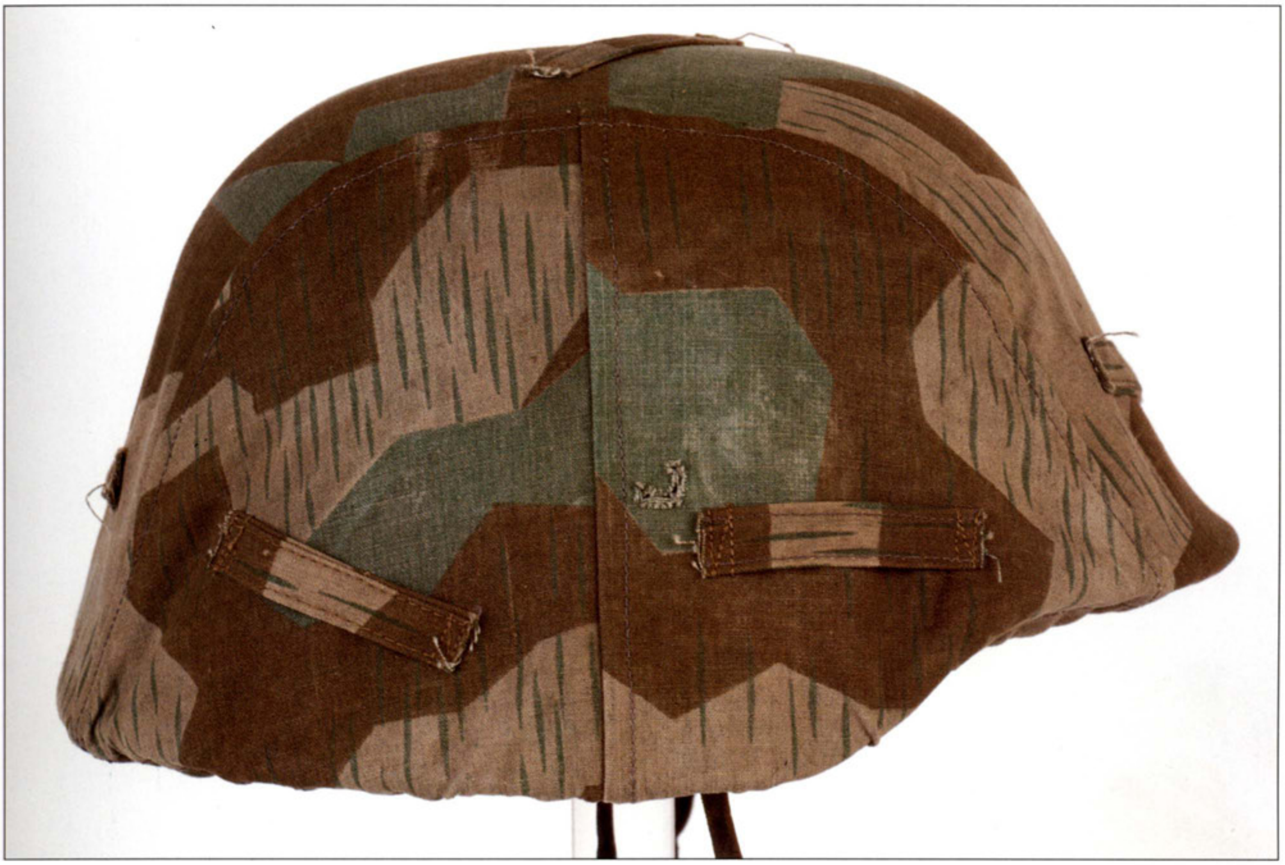
- Top: These men are boarding a glider at the start of the mission to rescue Benito Mussolini from the Gran Sasso, northeast of Rome, in September 1943. They are both wearing the regulation netting cover. *(BA)*

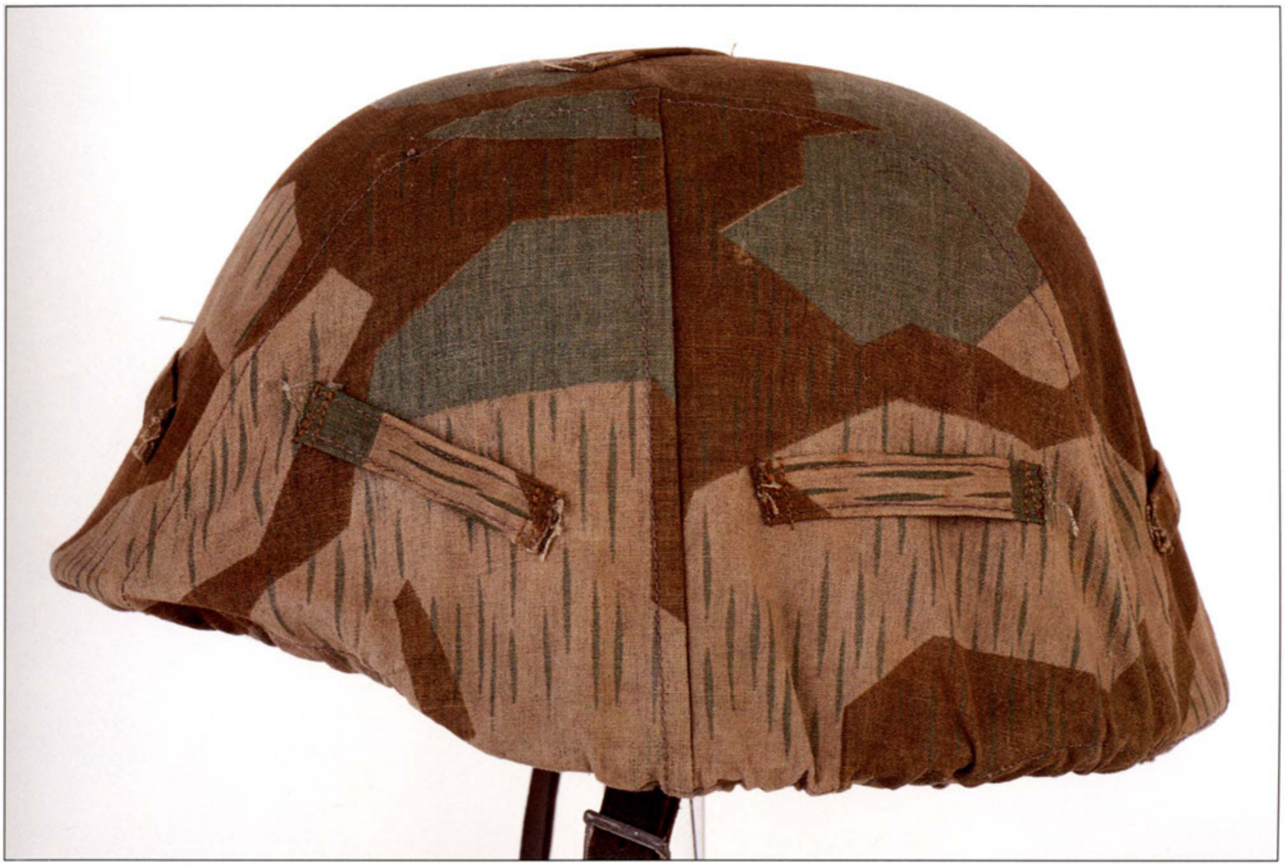
- Bottom: This MG34 crew in Sicily are wearing tan painted M38 helmets with regulation netting covers. *(BA)*

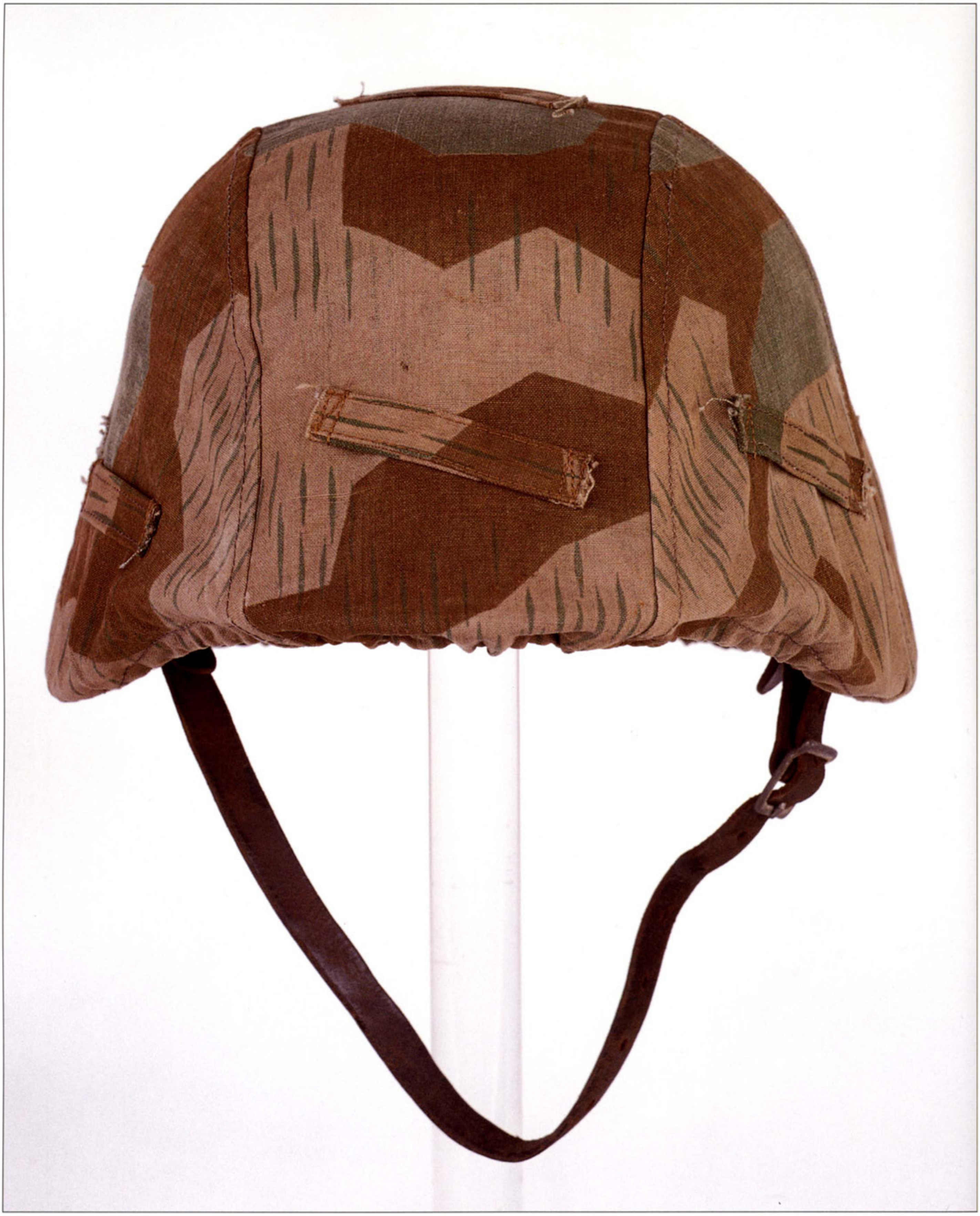
Chapter Five: Covers

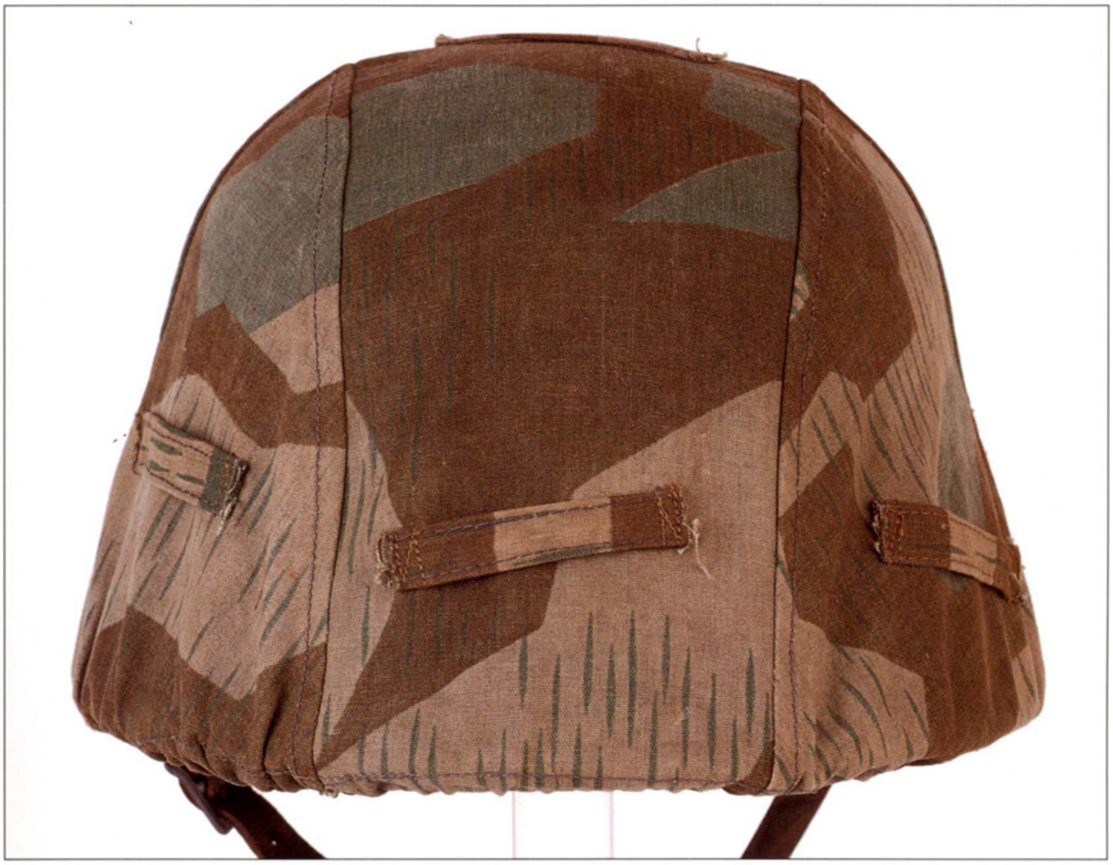


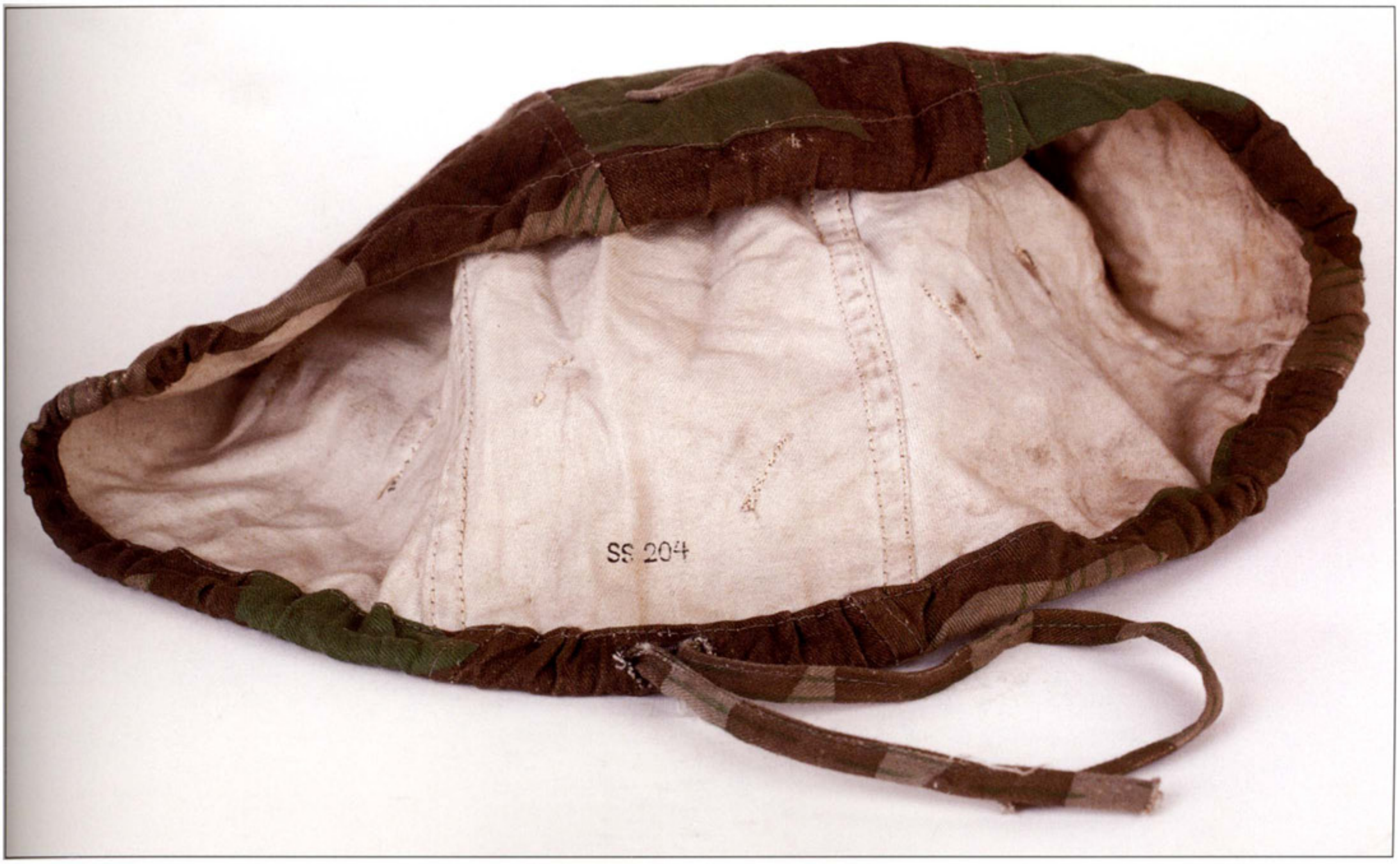
Regulation issue splinter pattern cover, reversible to white with loops for foliage. (Collection of The Imperial War Museum, London)

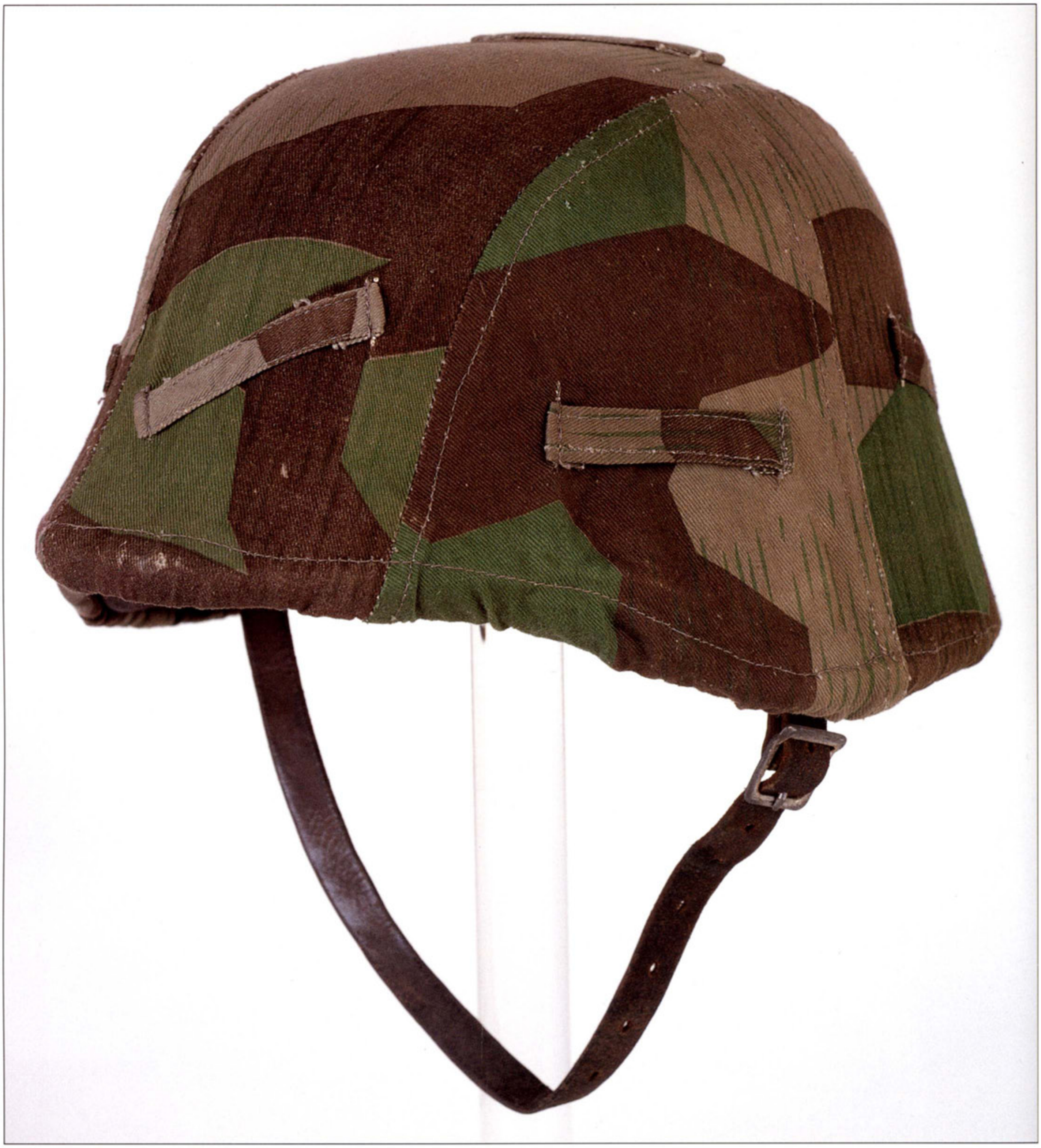




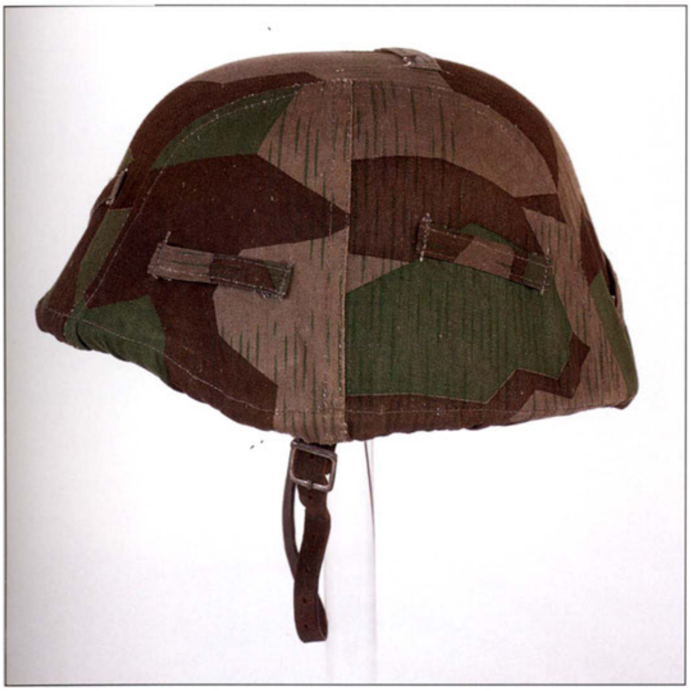


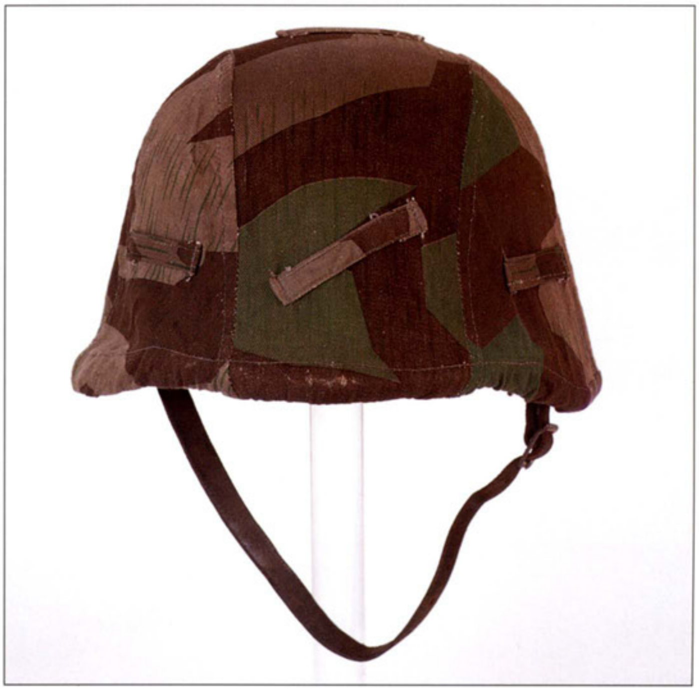


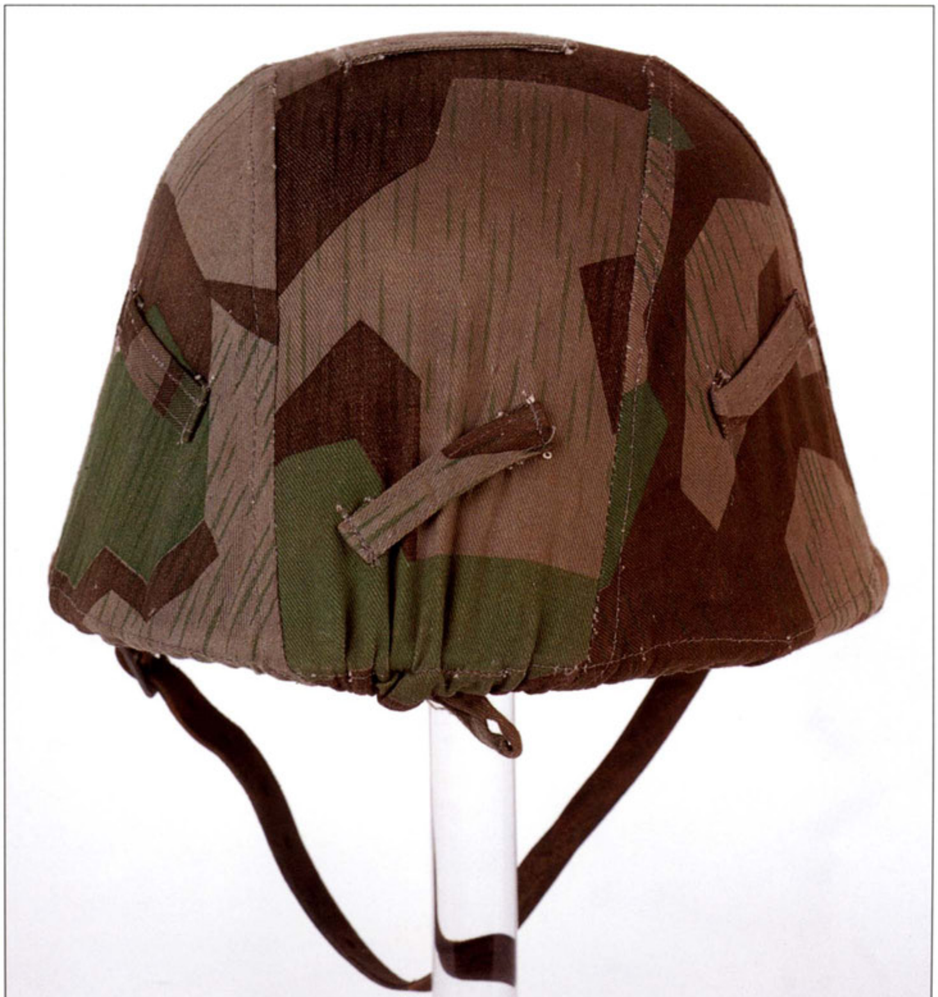

SS 204

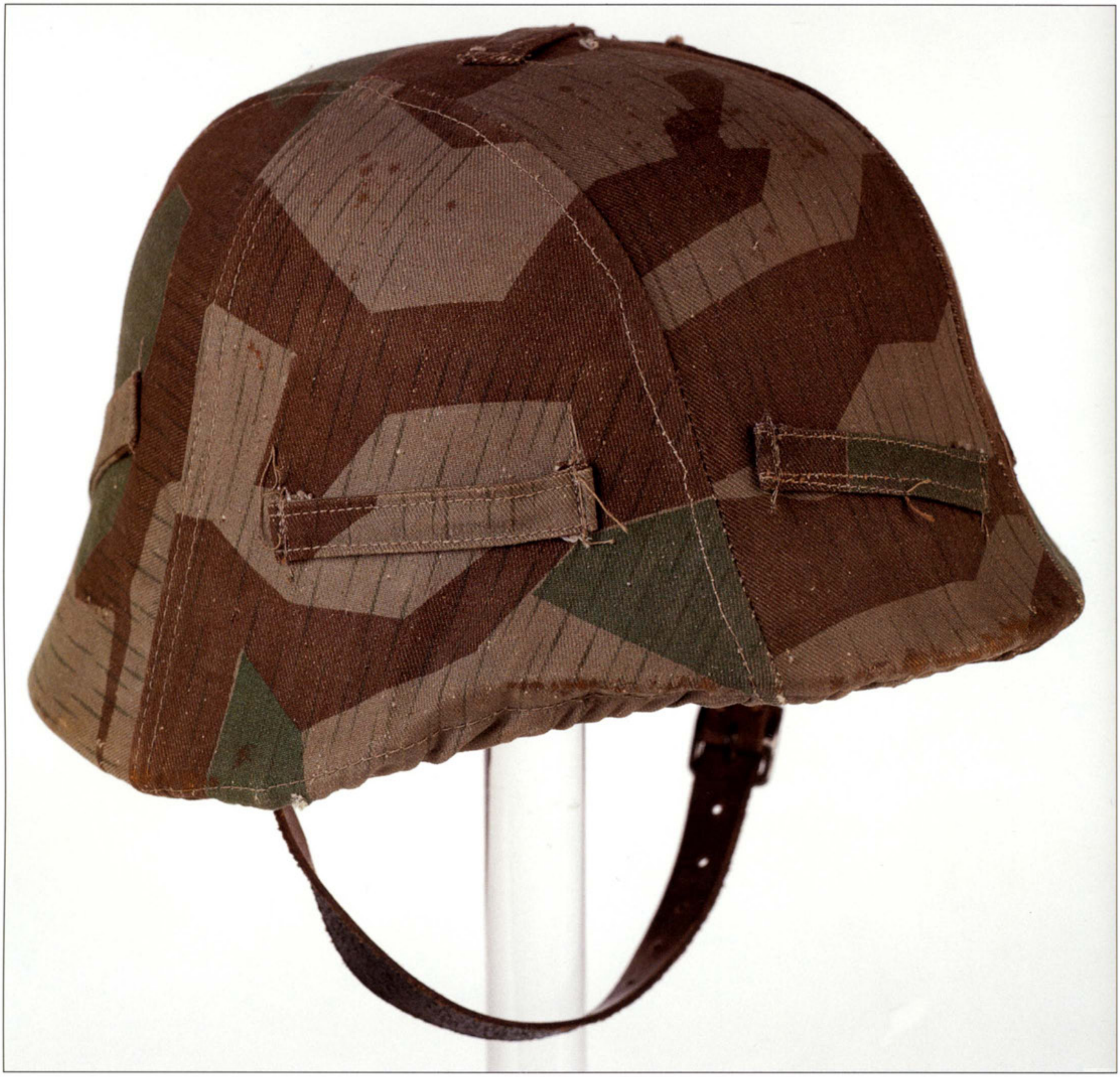


■ Additional examples of regulation issue splinter pattern covers, reversible to white with loops for foliage. (Collection of the author)

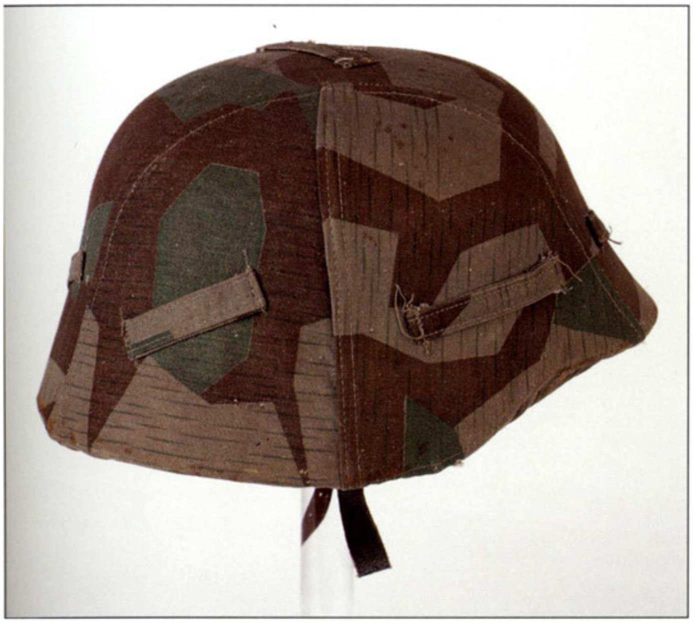


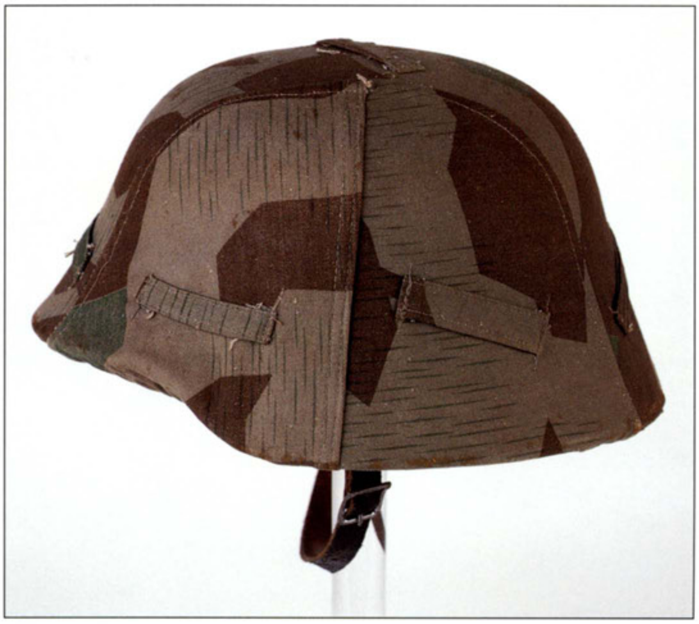


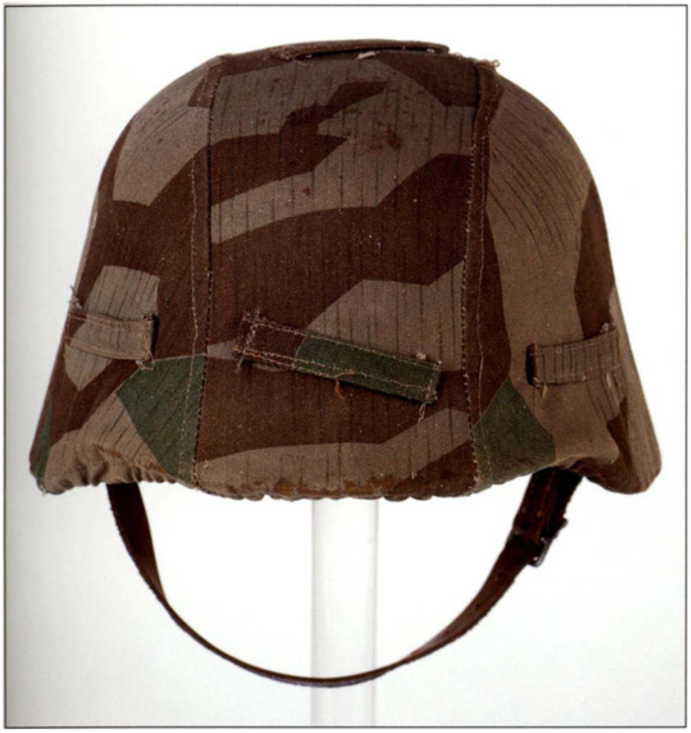


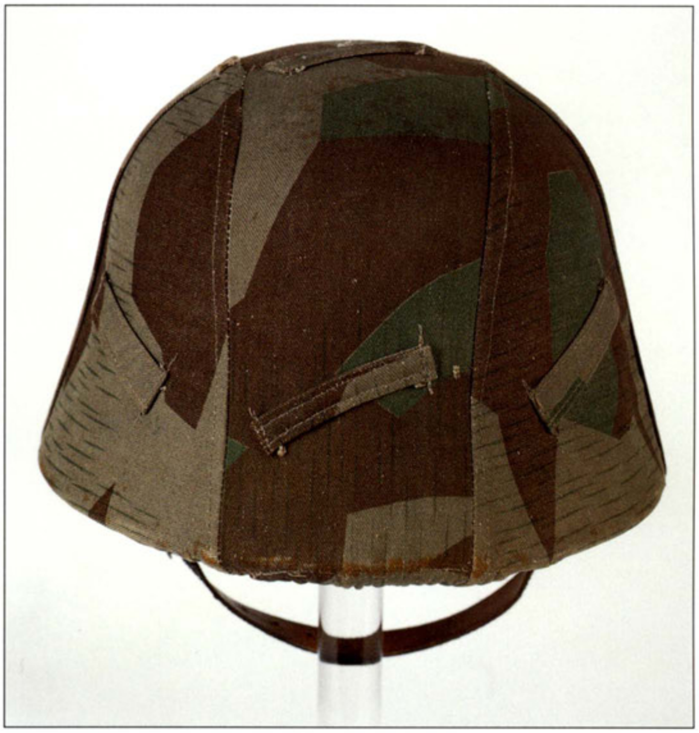


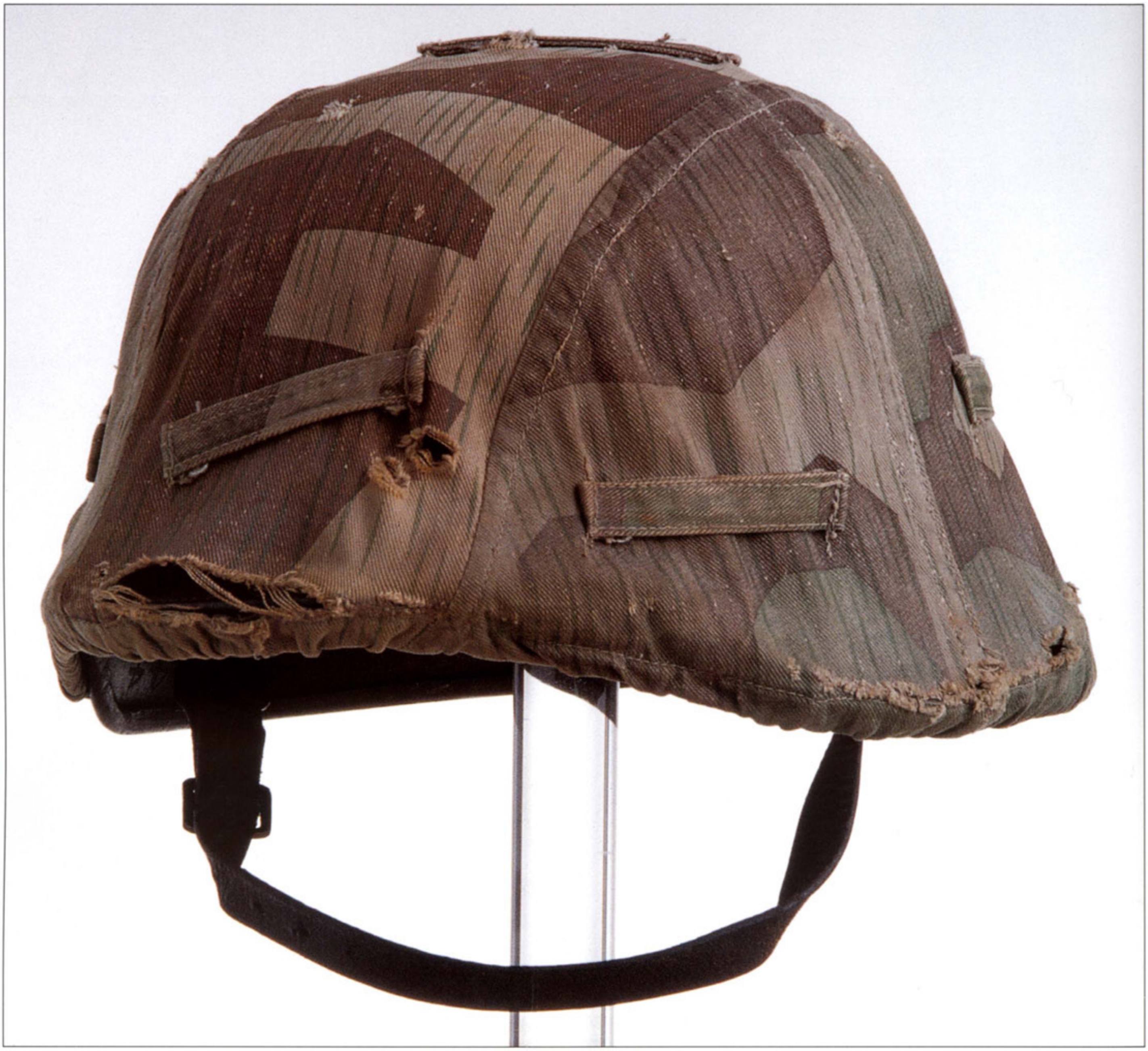
■ (Collection of Phillippe Gillain - December 44 Museum, La Gleize, Ardennes, Belgium)



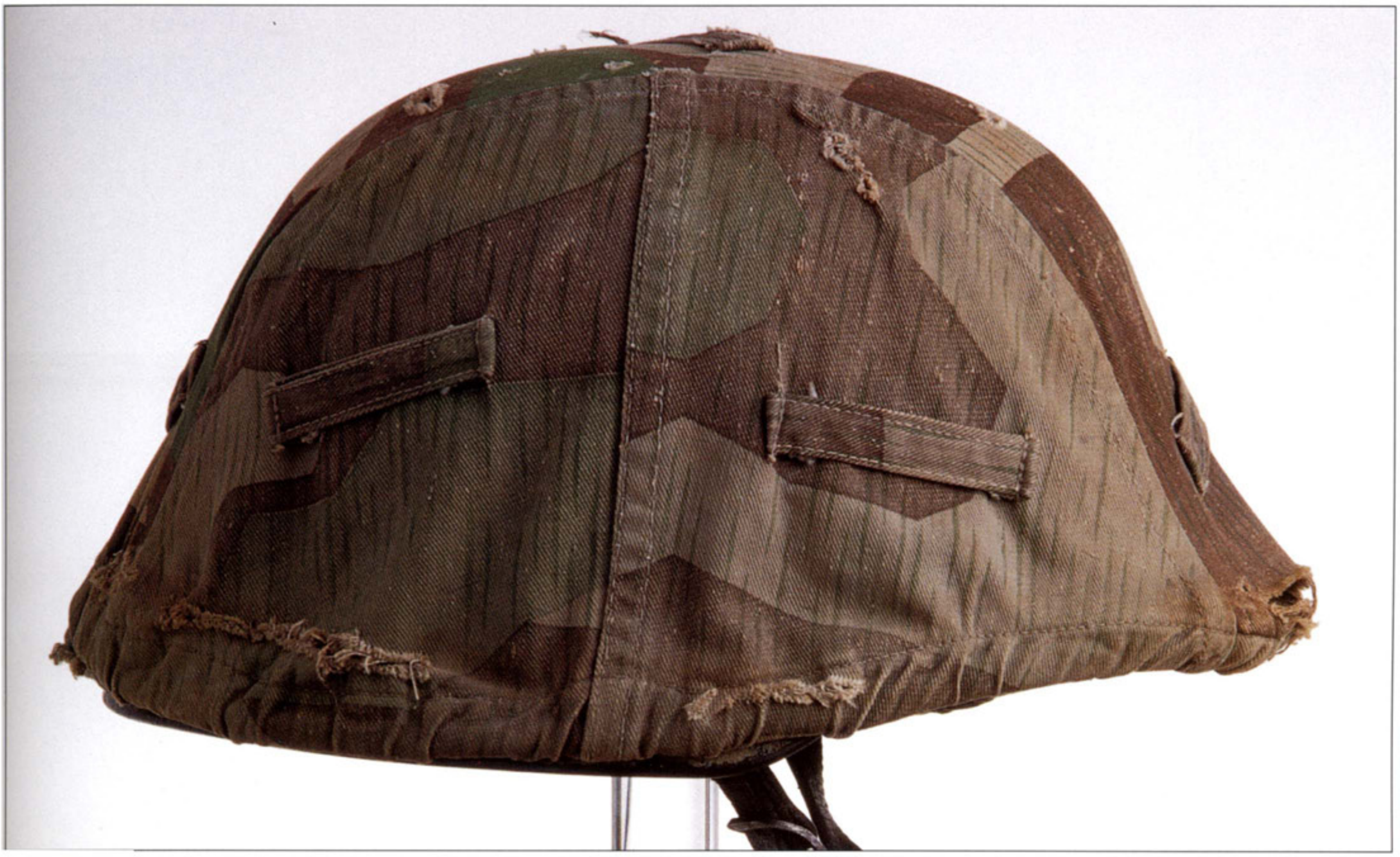


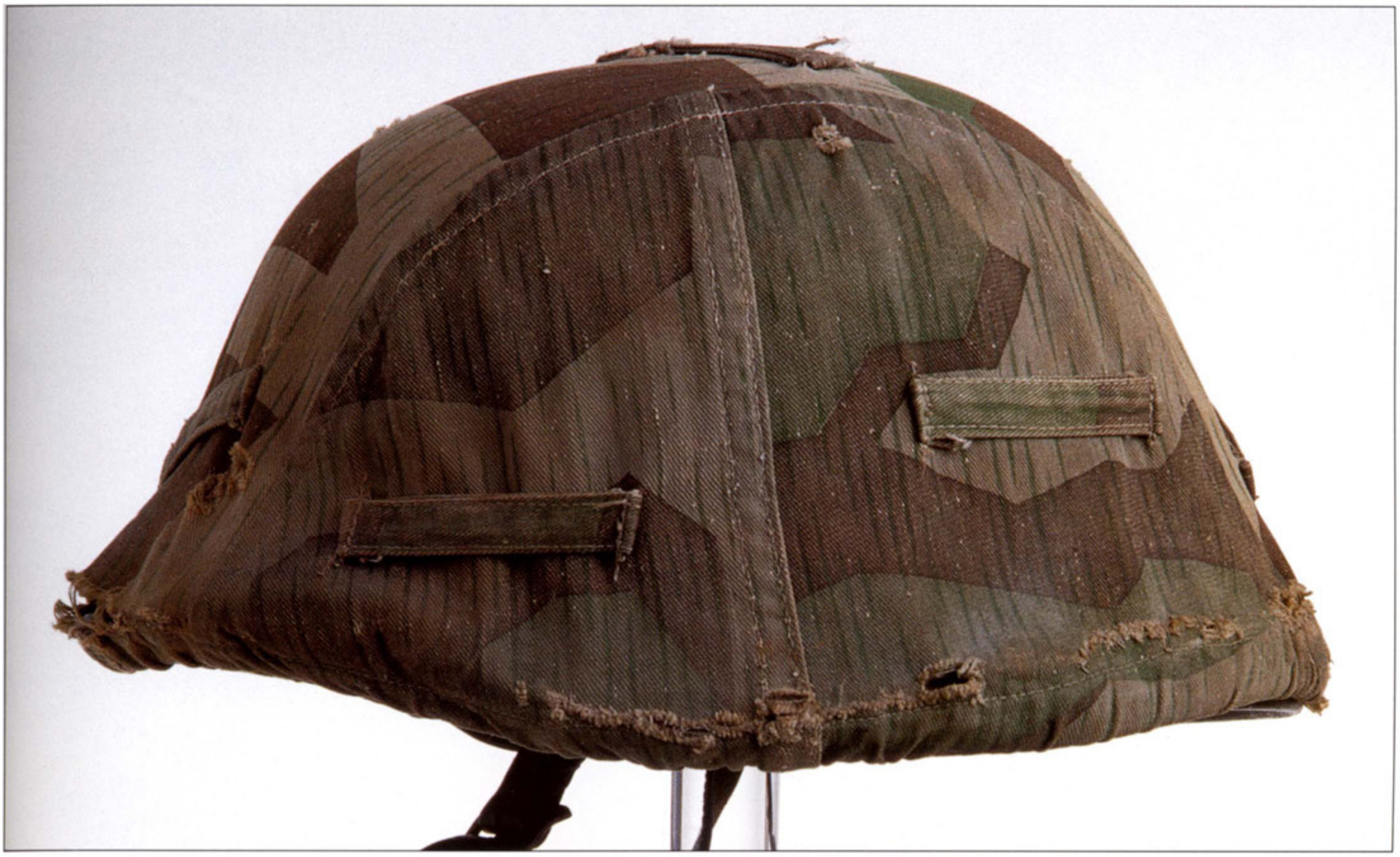


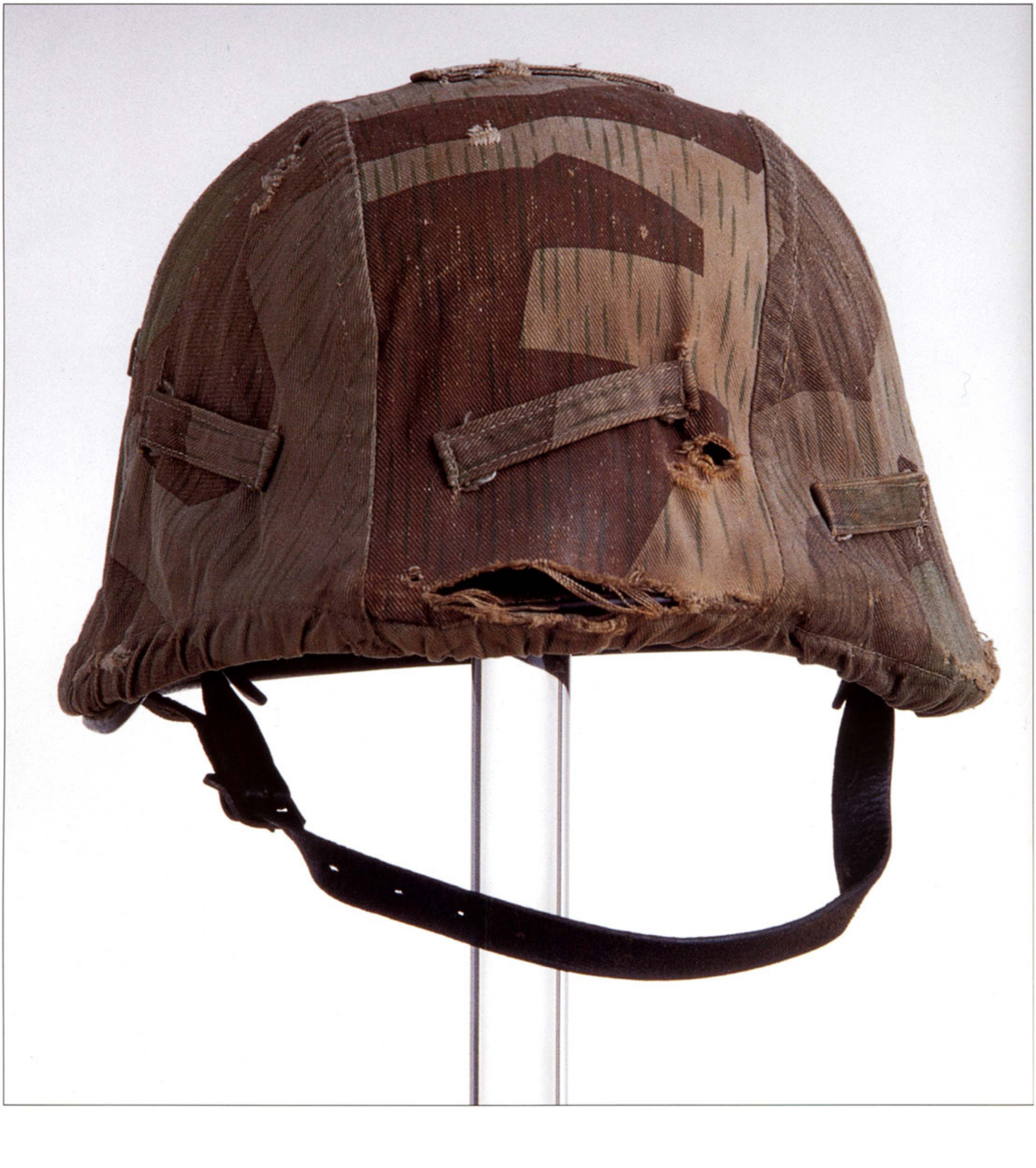


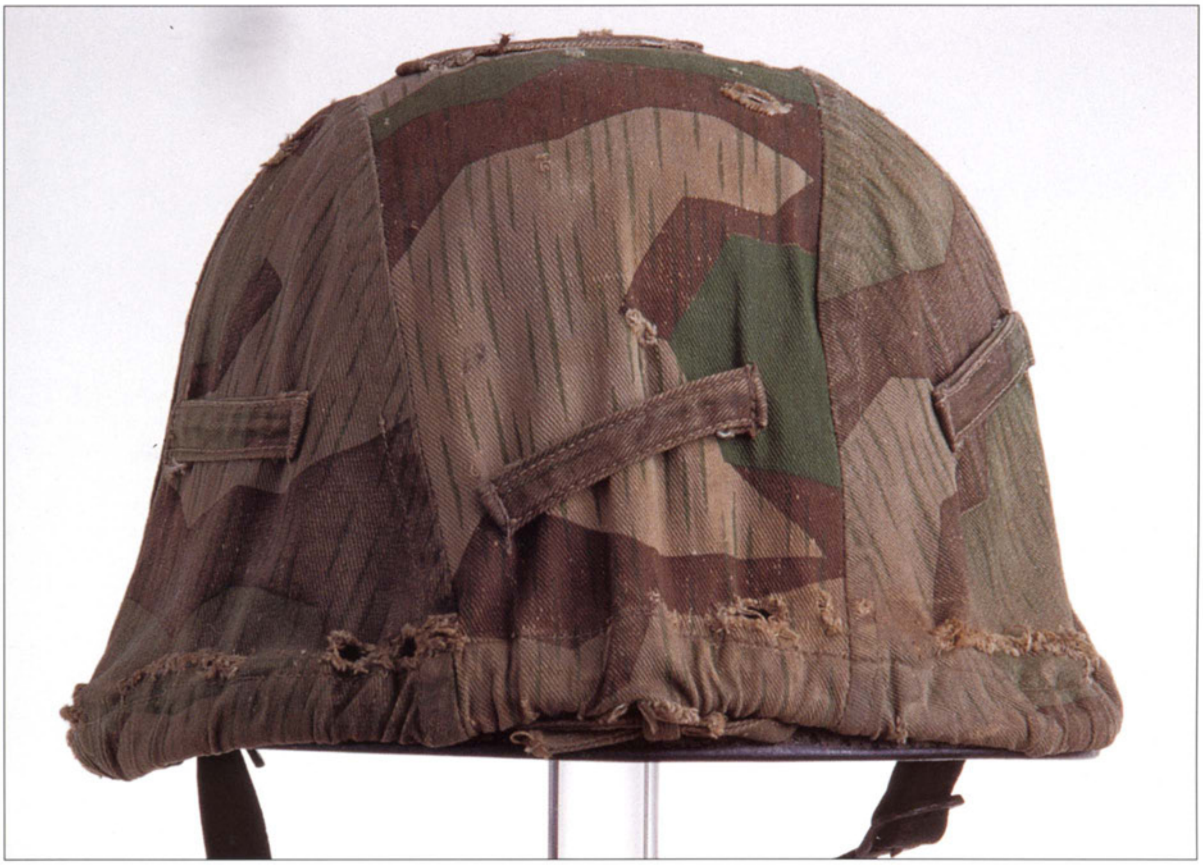


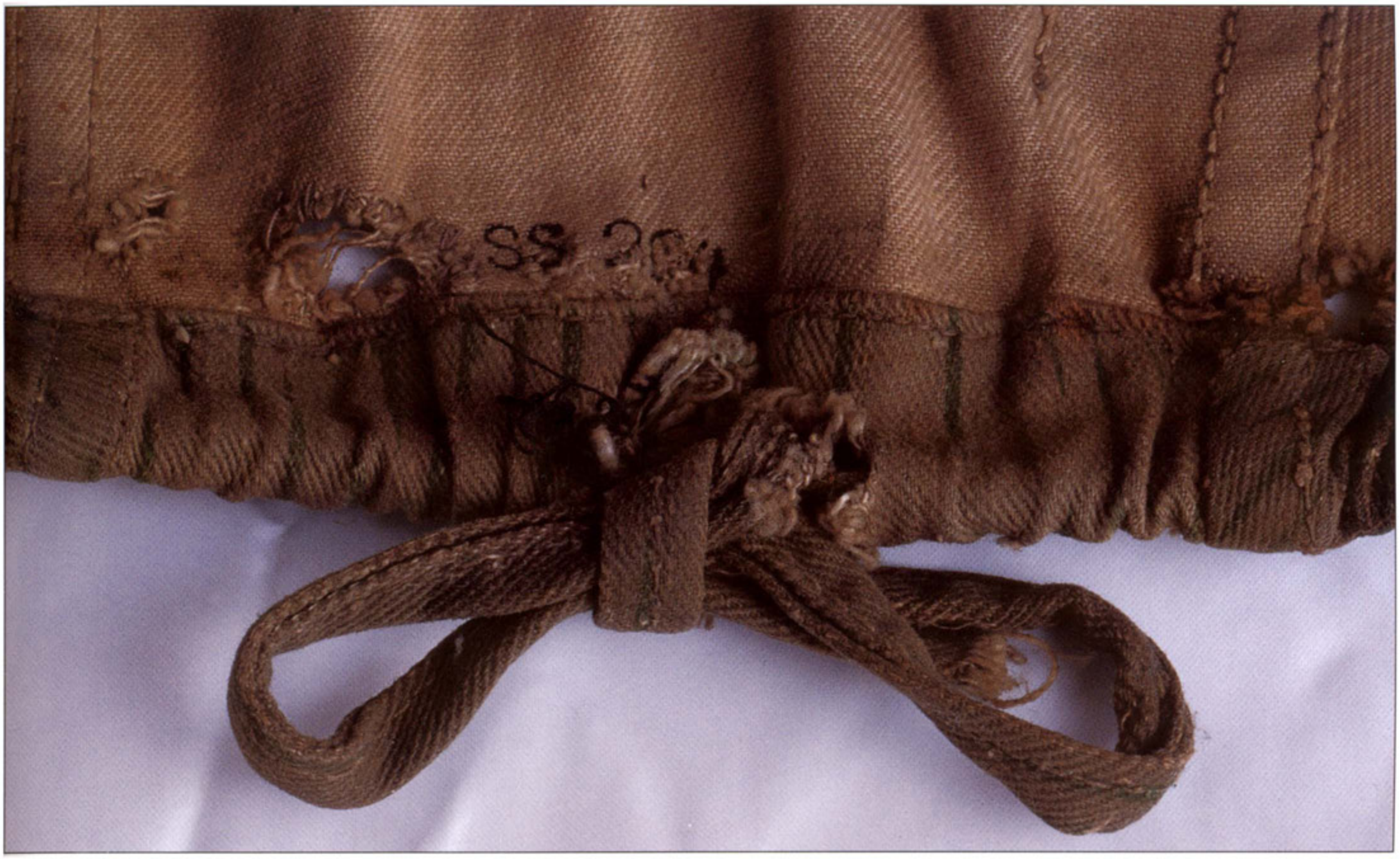
■ (Collection of David Asselin)

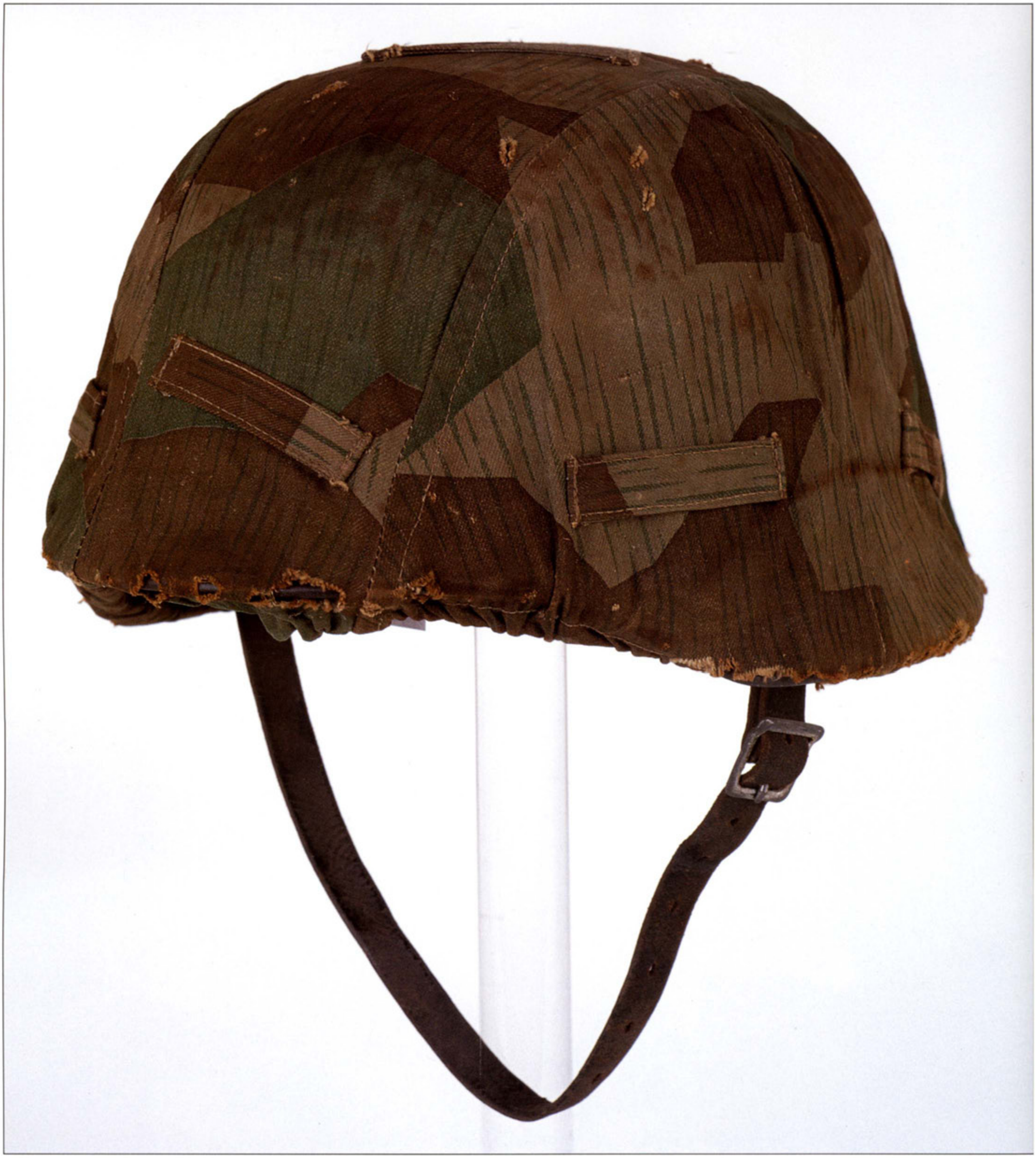




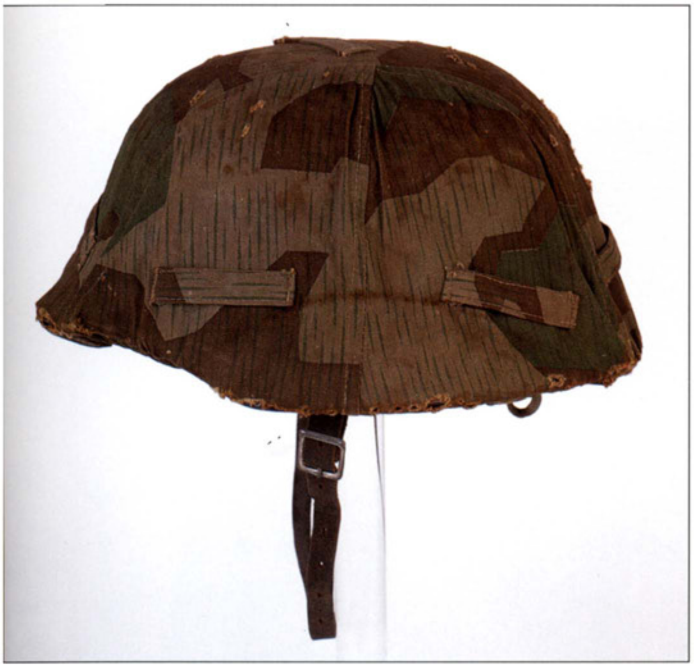


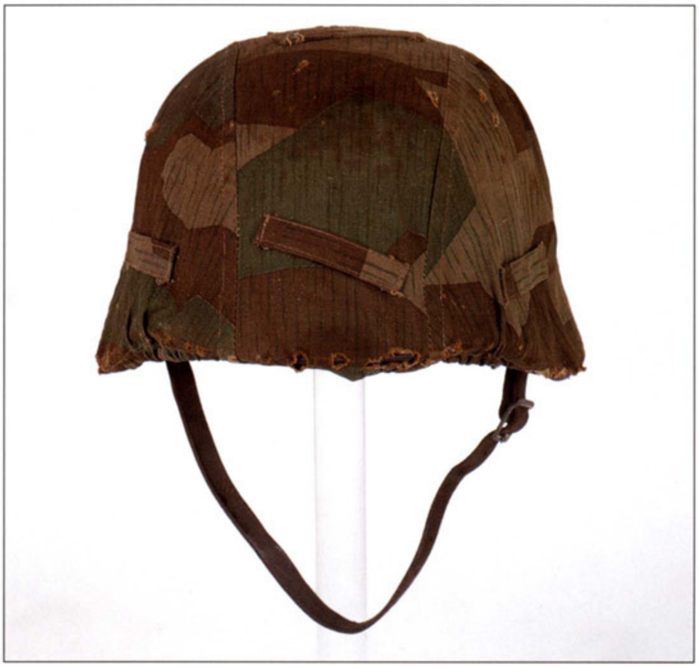


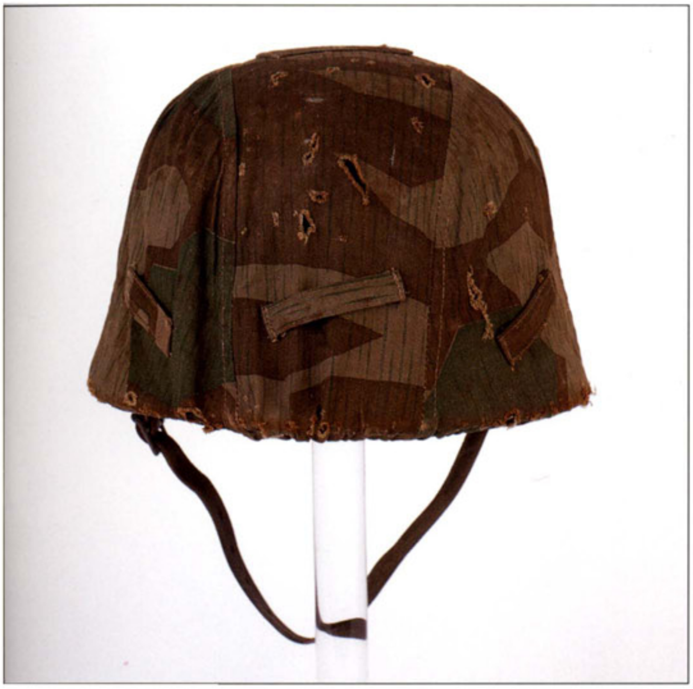

SS 20

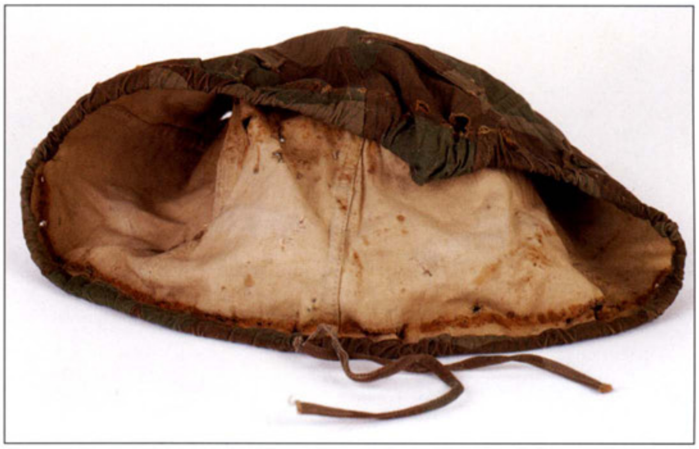


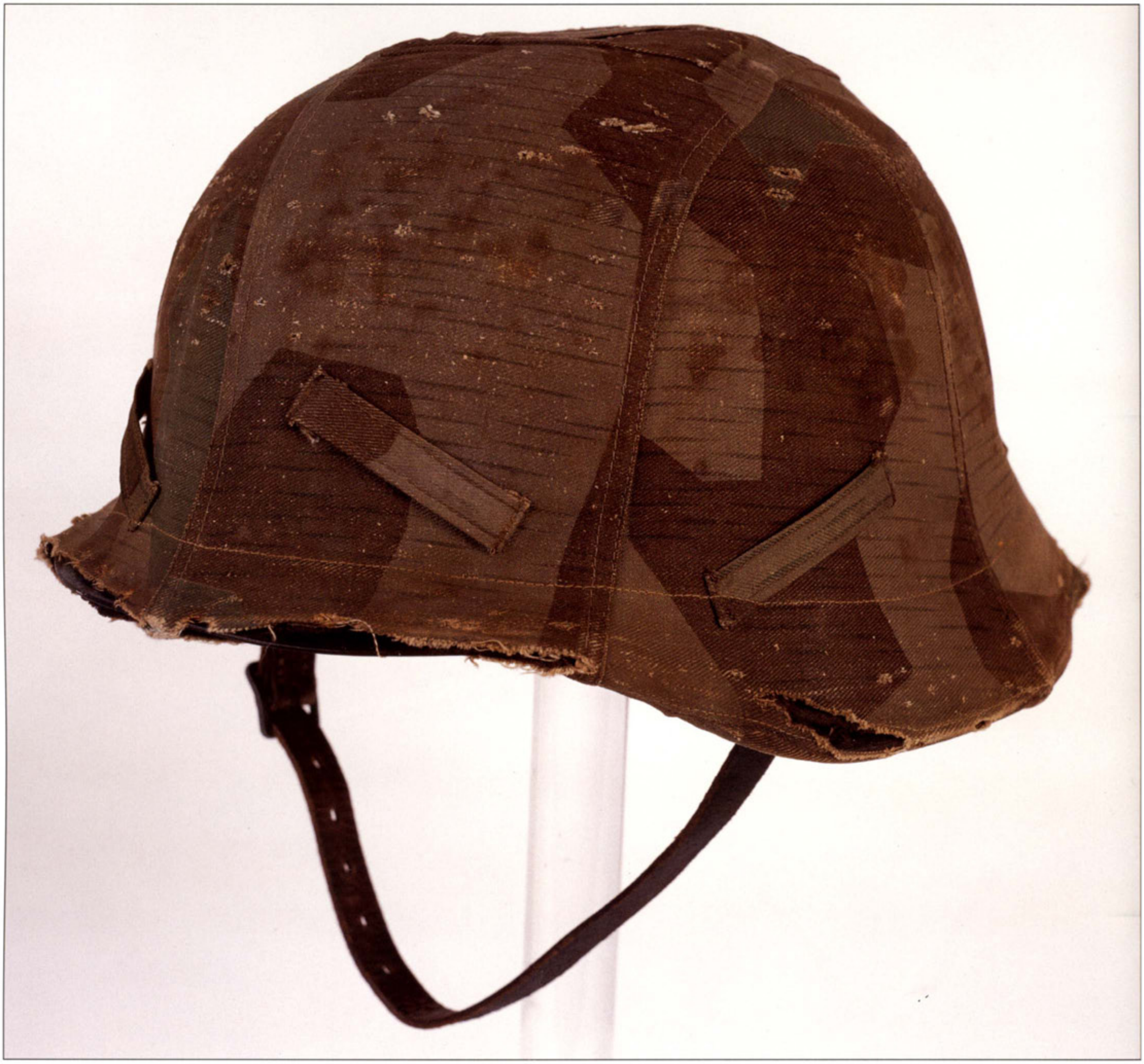
■ (Collection of The Imperial War Museum, London)



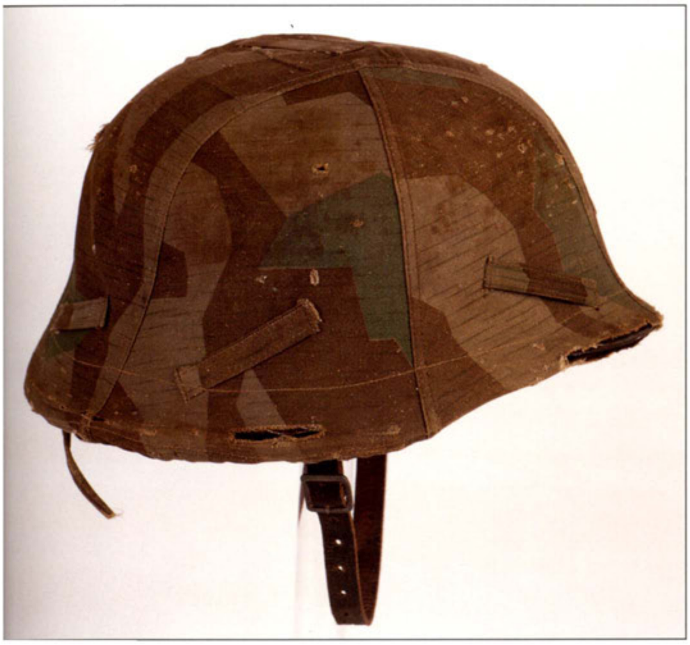


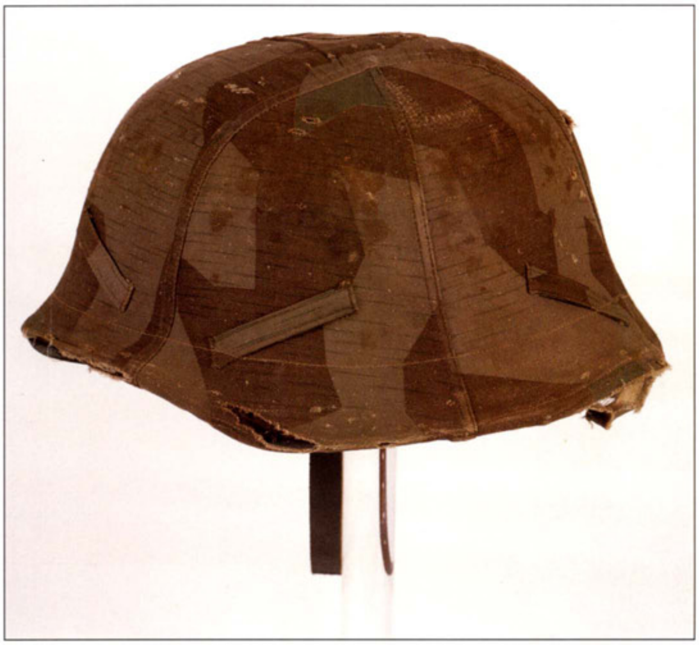


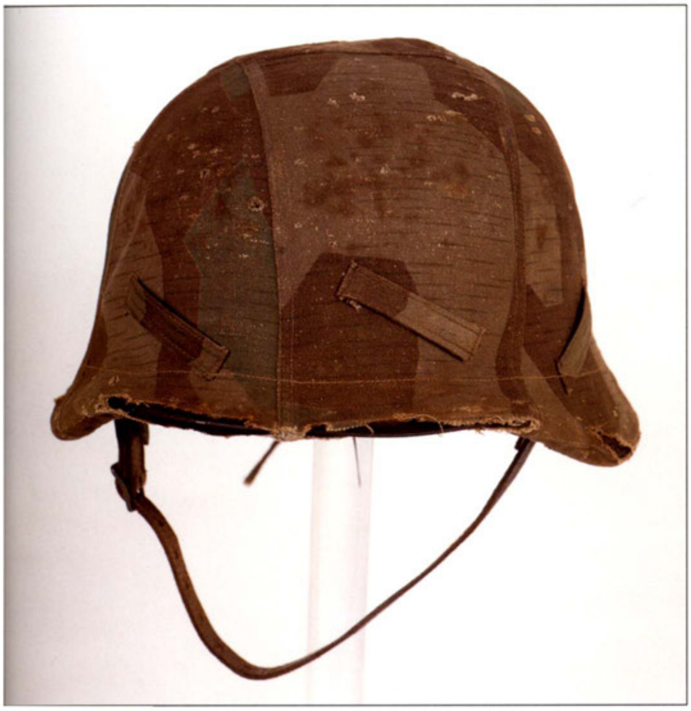


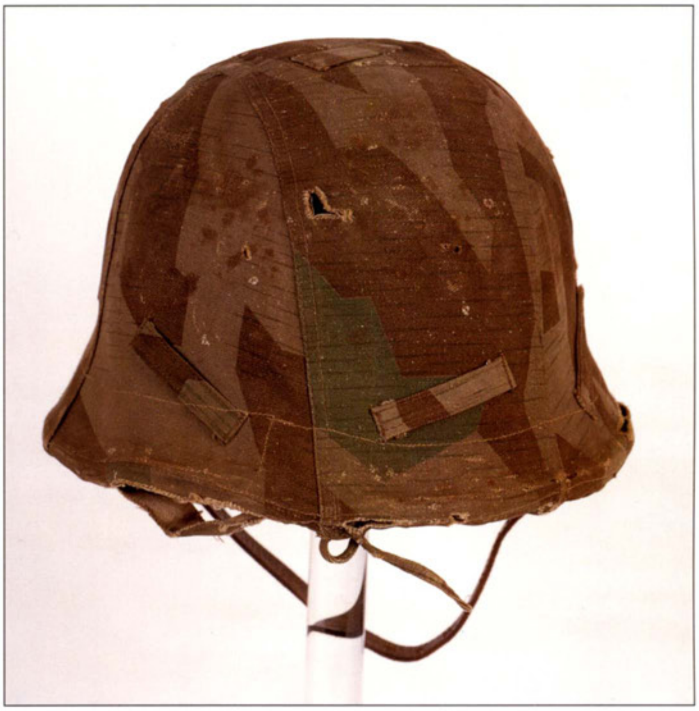


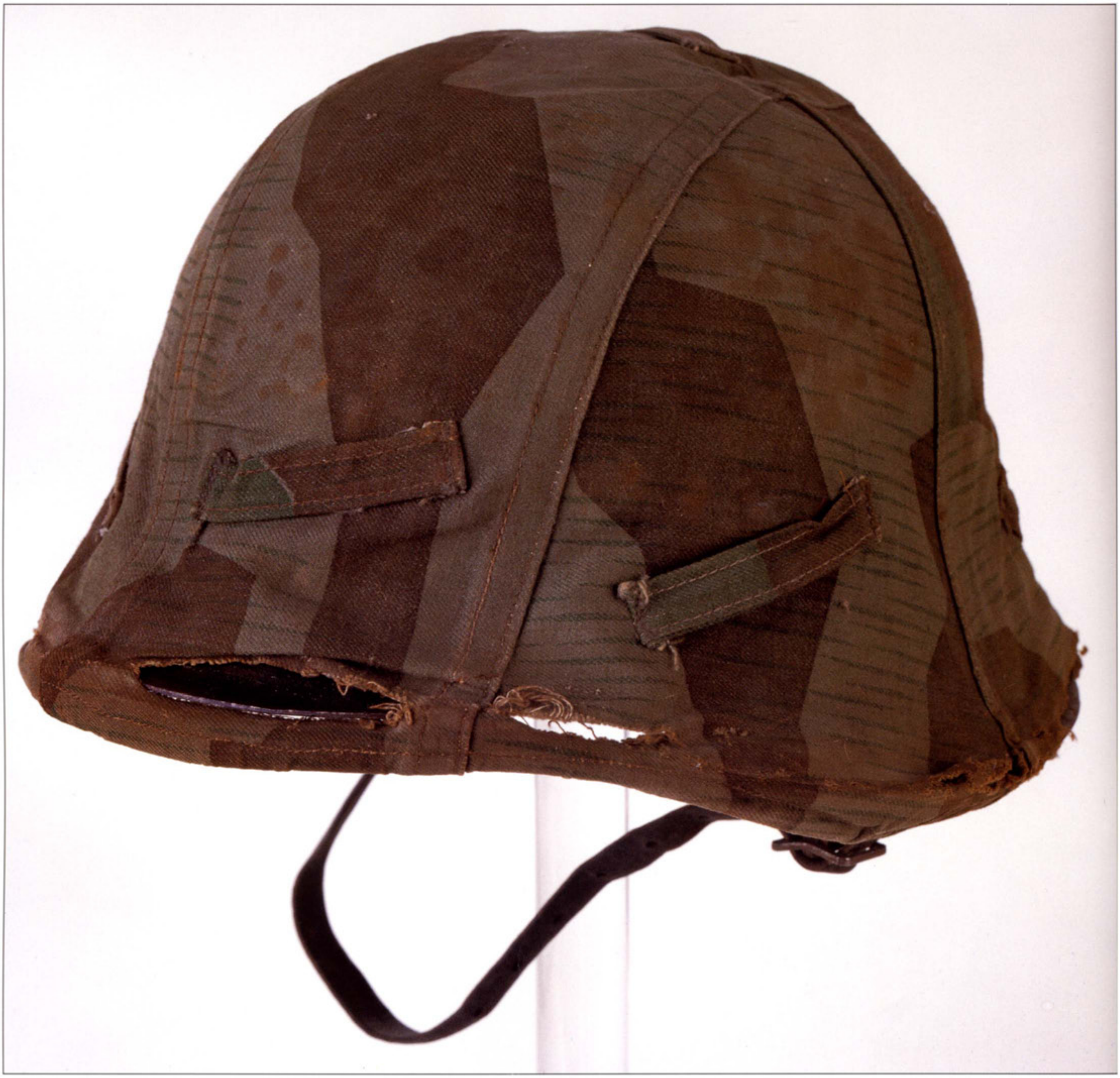
■ (Collection of Chris Jones)



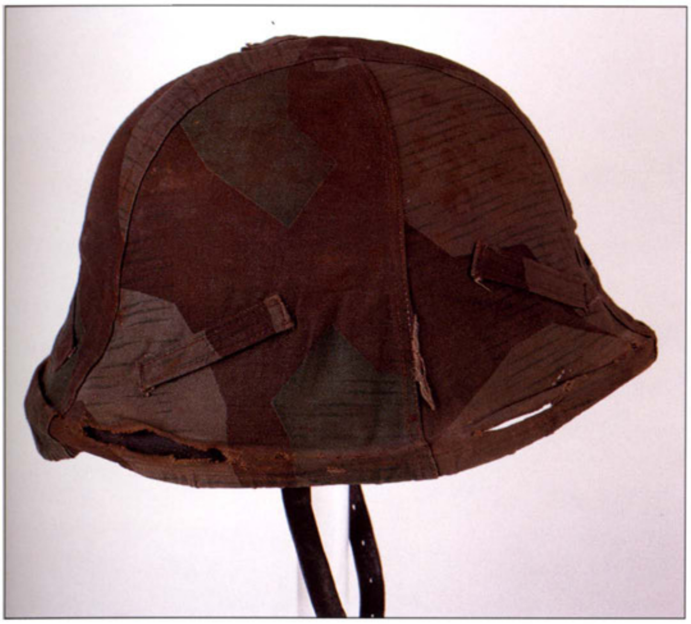


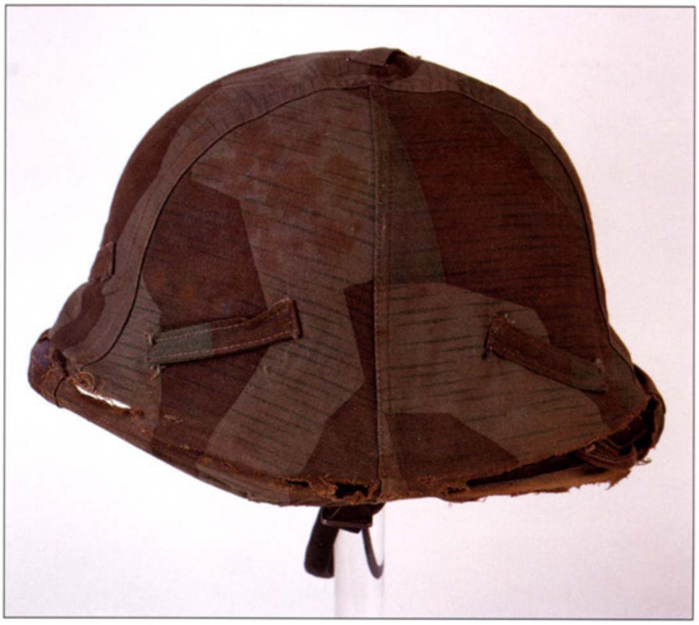


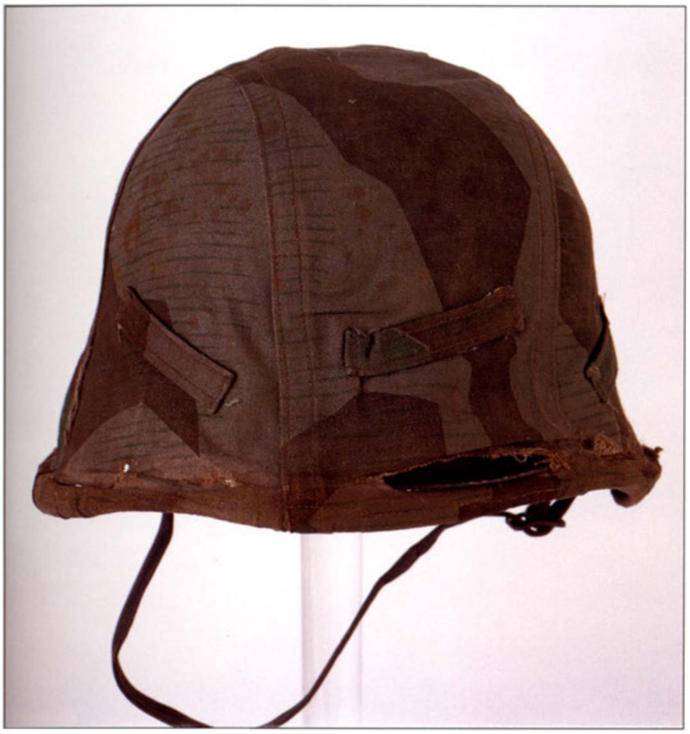


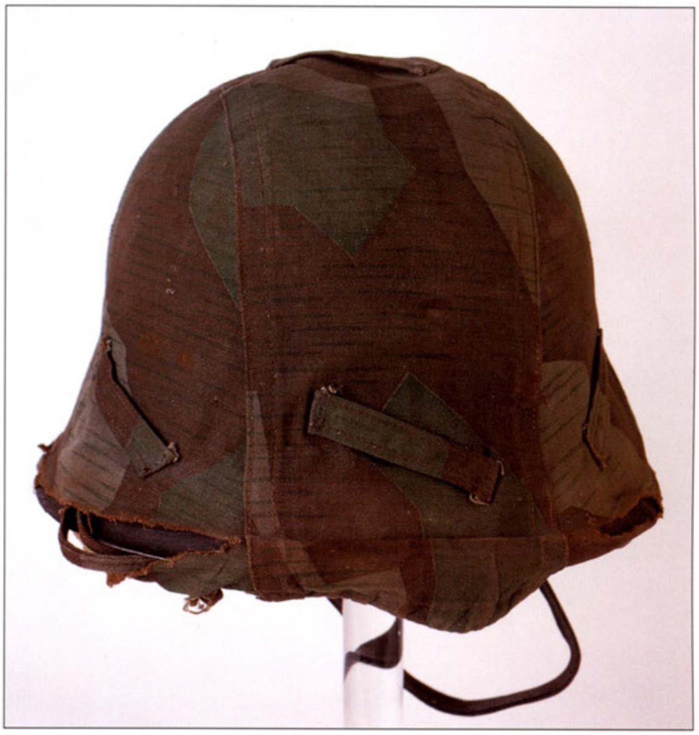


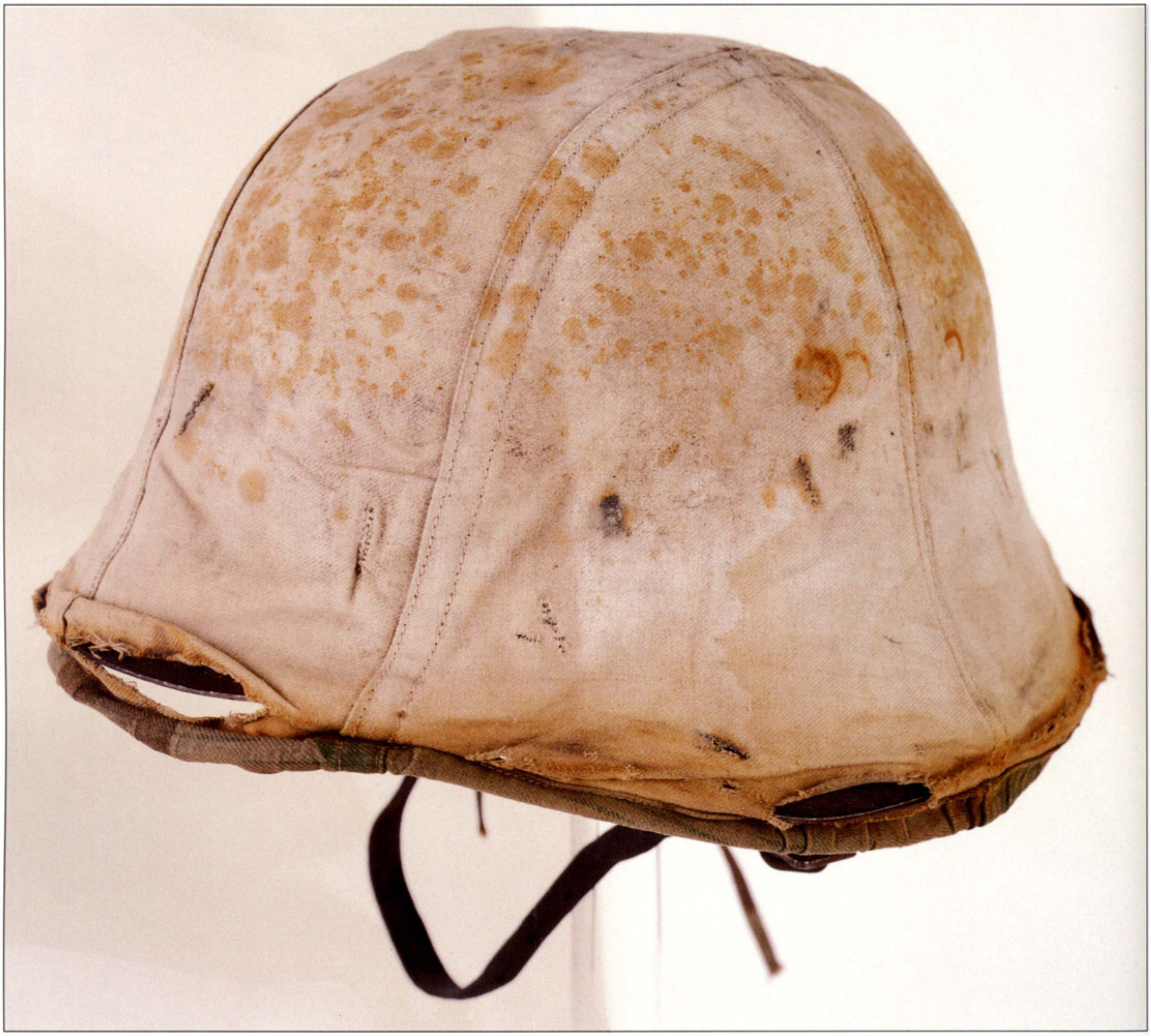
■ (Collection of John Burnett)

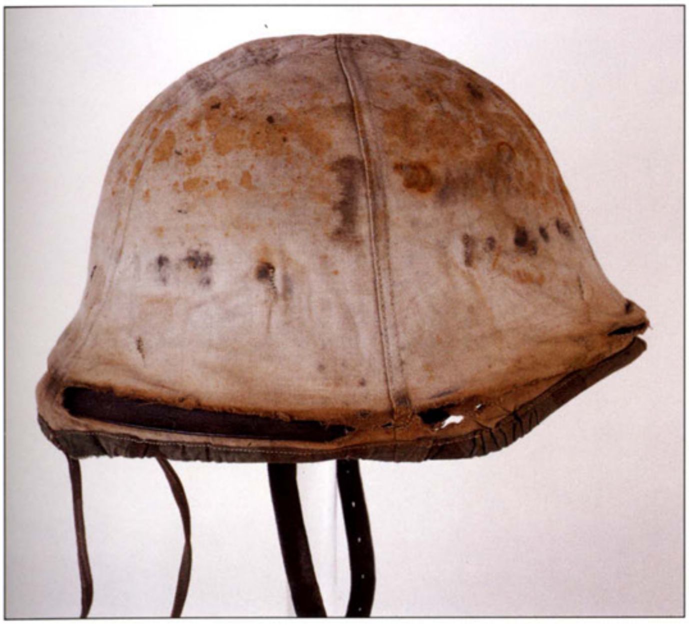


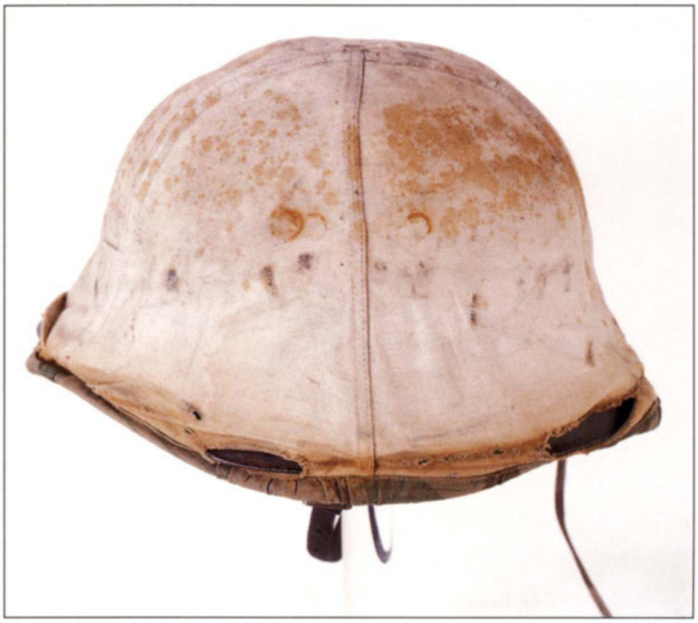


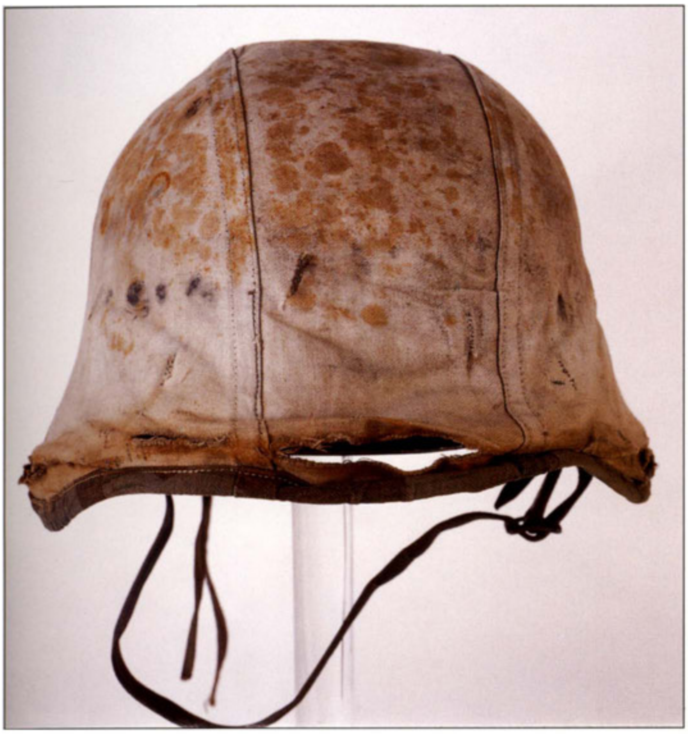


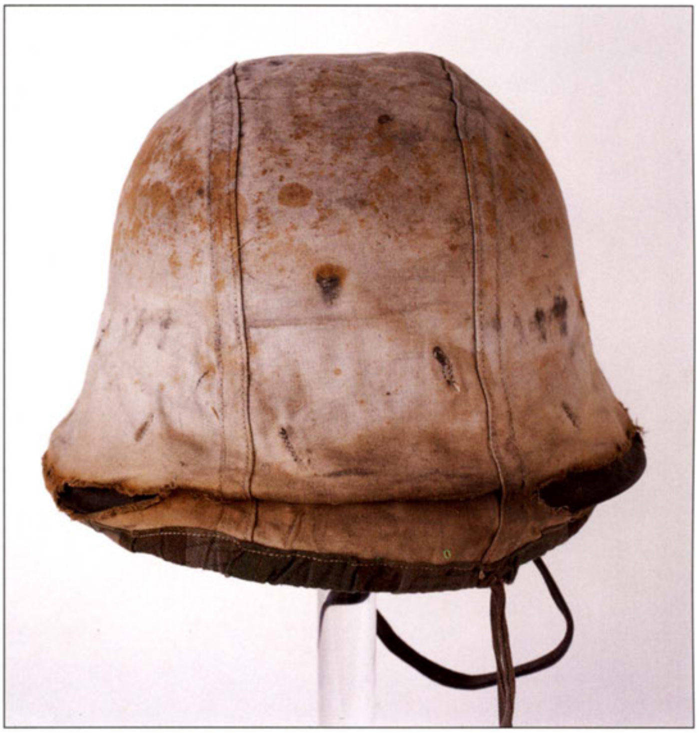


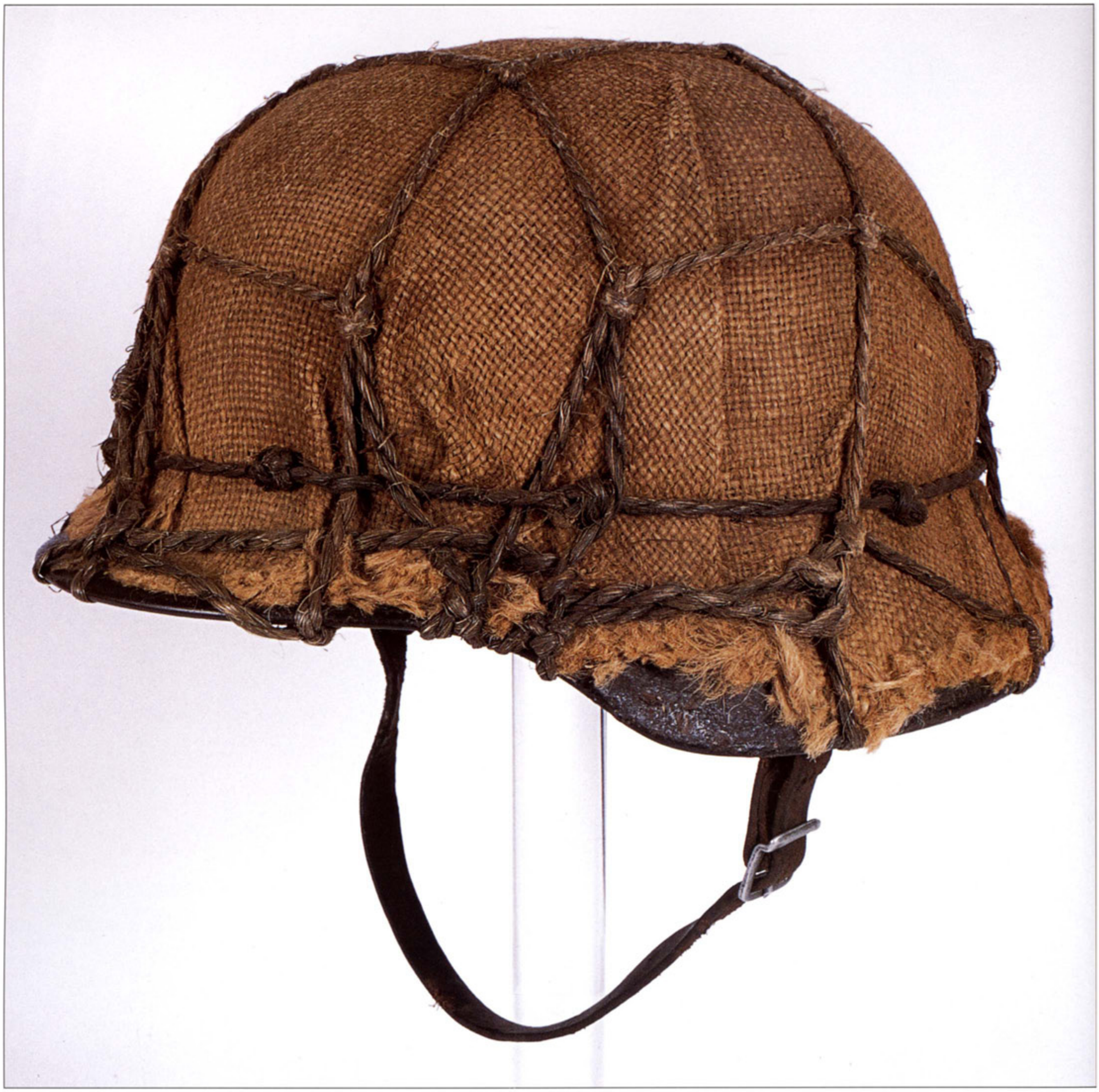




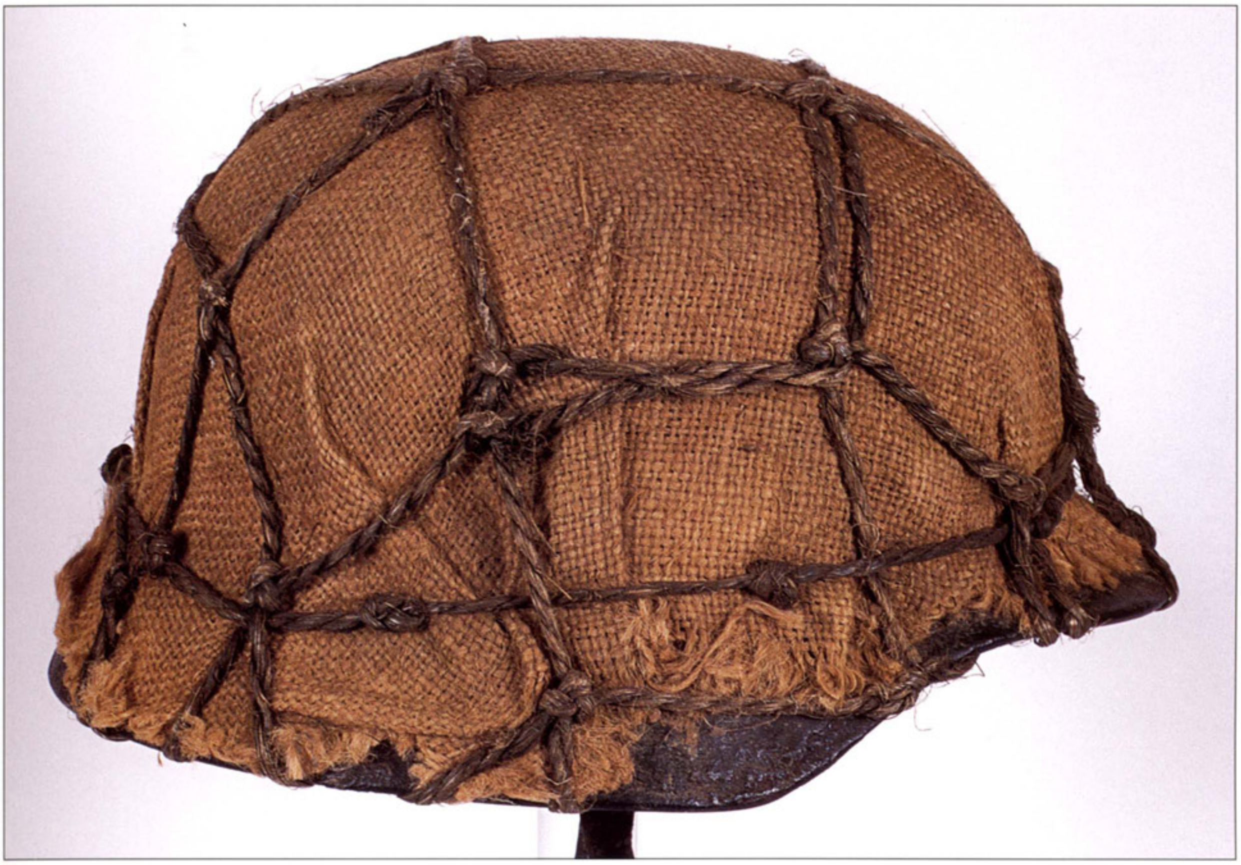


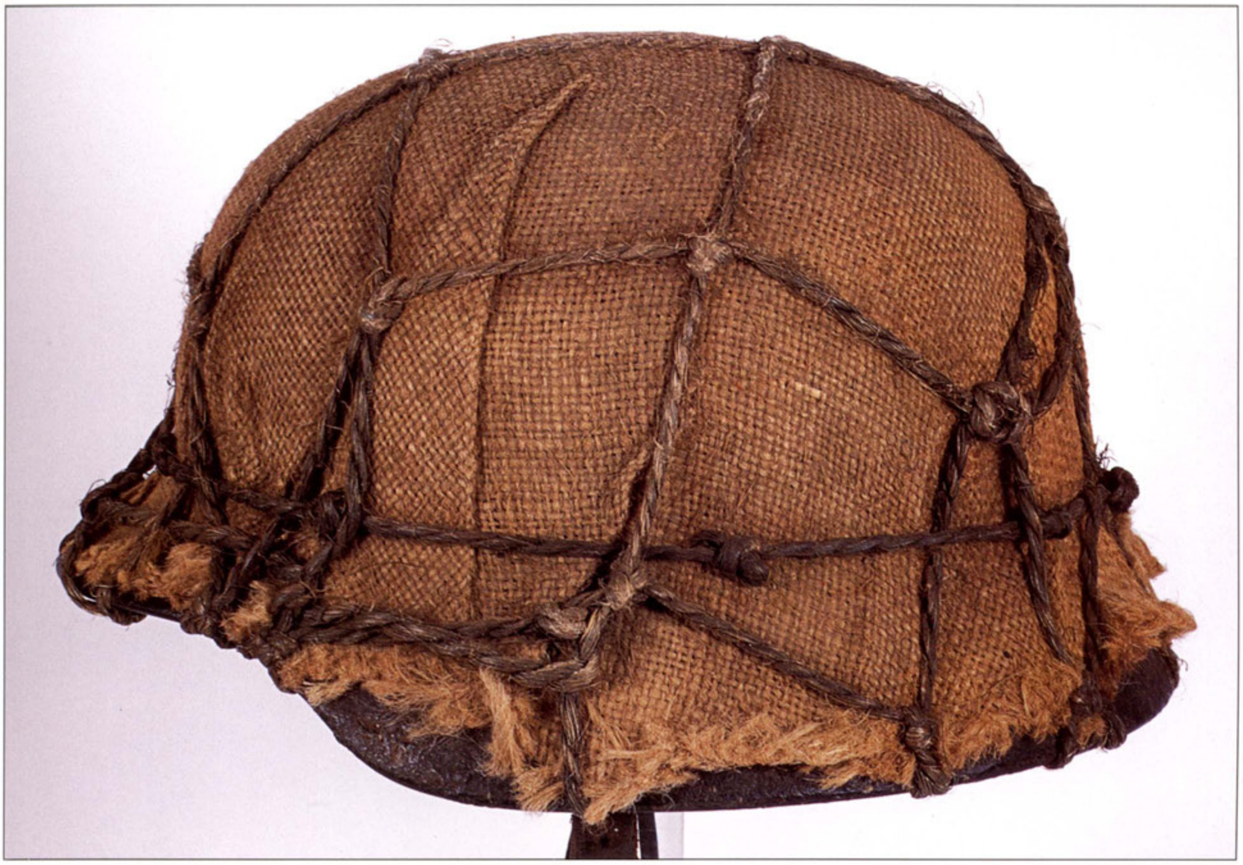


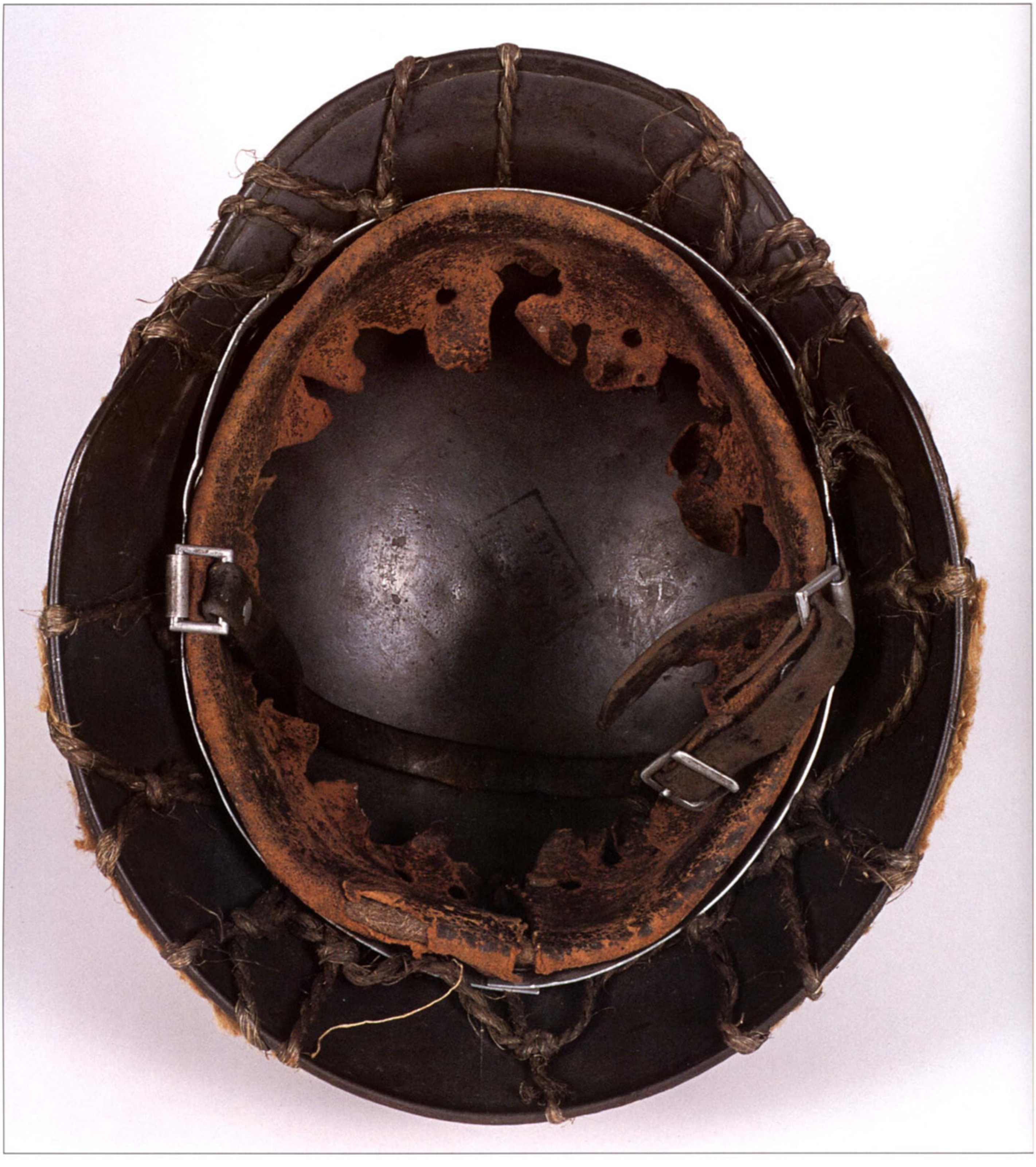


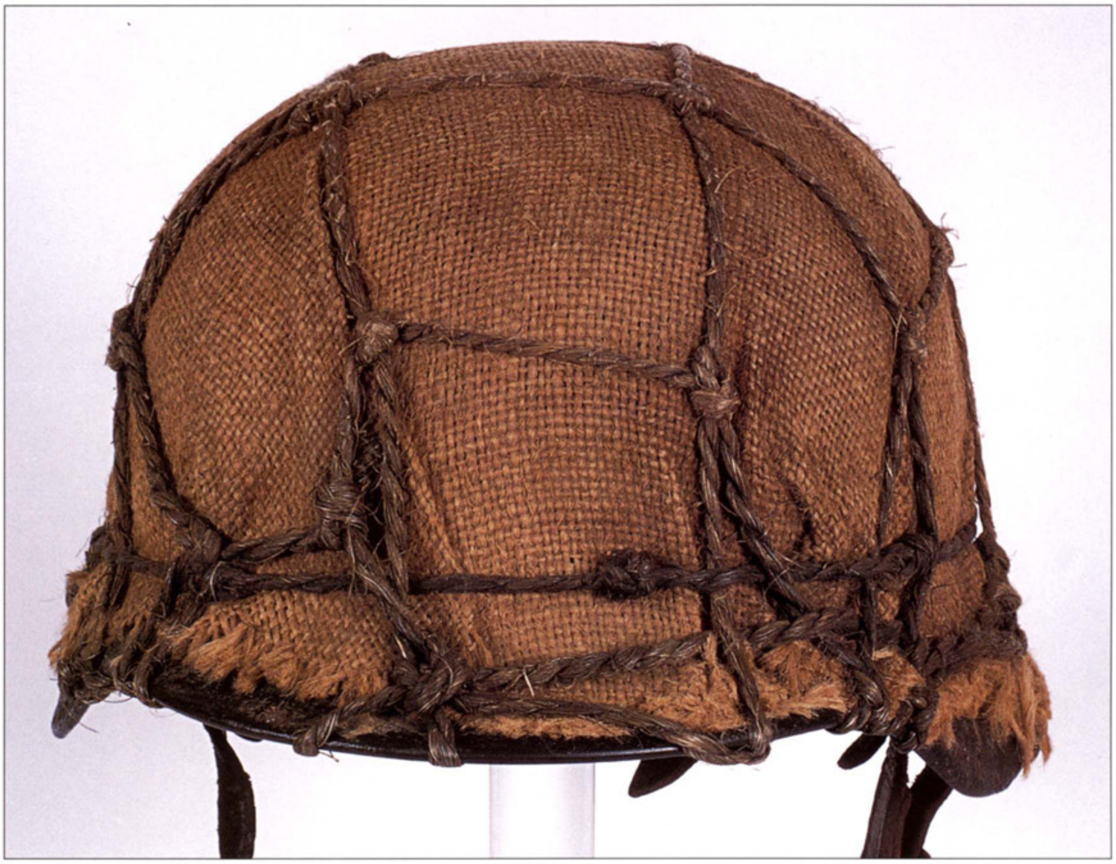


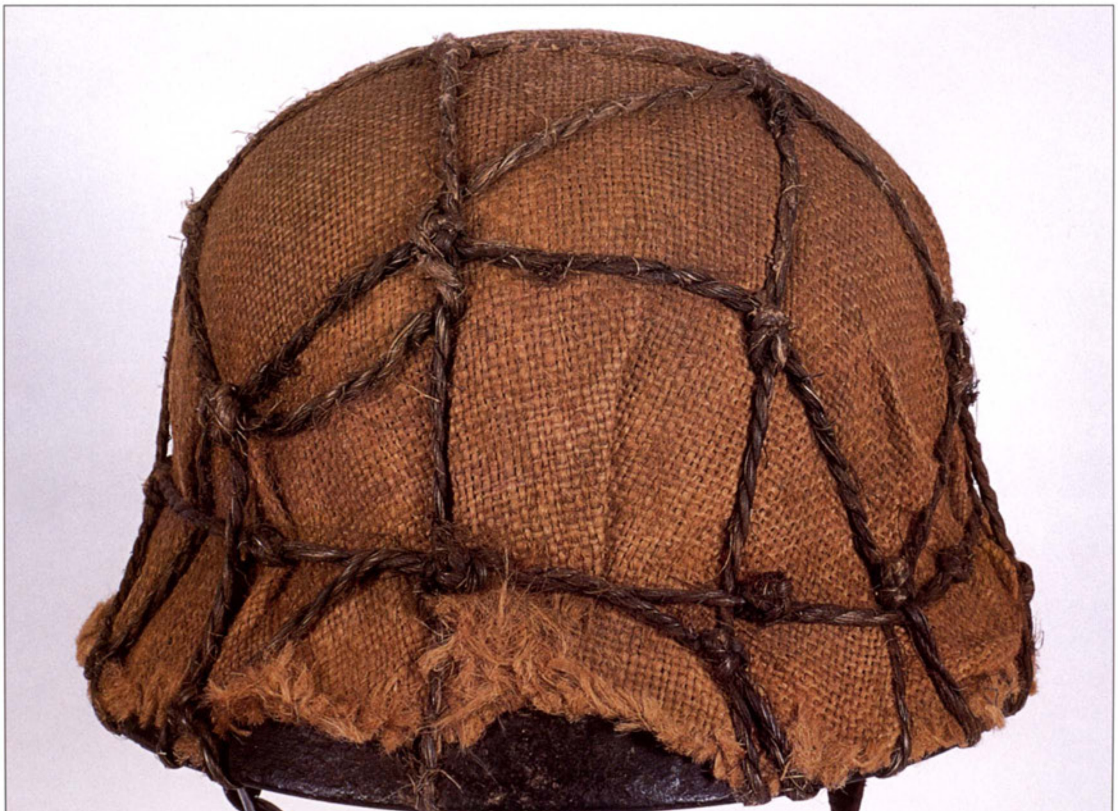
■ M35, overpainted in a dark blue-grey sand/grit mixture. It has a rough hessian cover secured to the shell with a non-regulation heavy string net which passes between the liner band and shell. The interior is ink stamped as belonging to the Dresden War School. (Collection of the author)

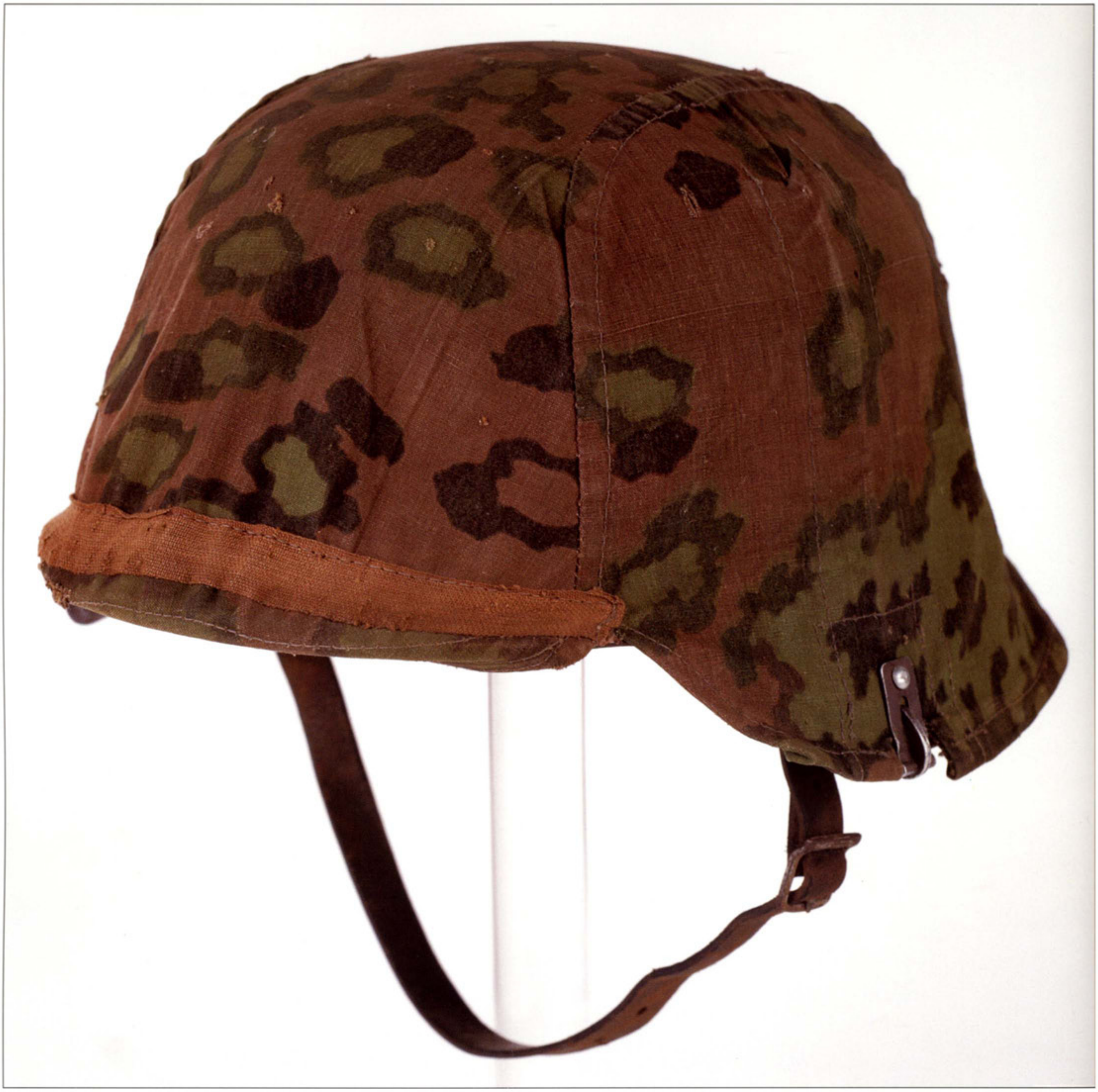




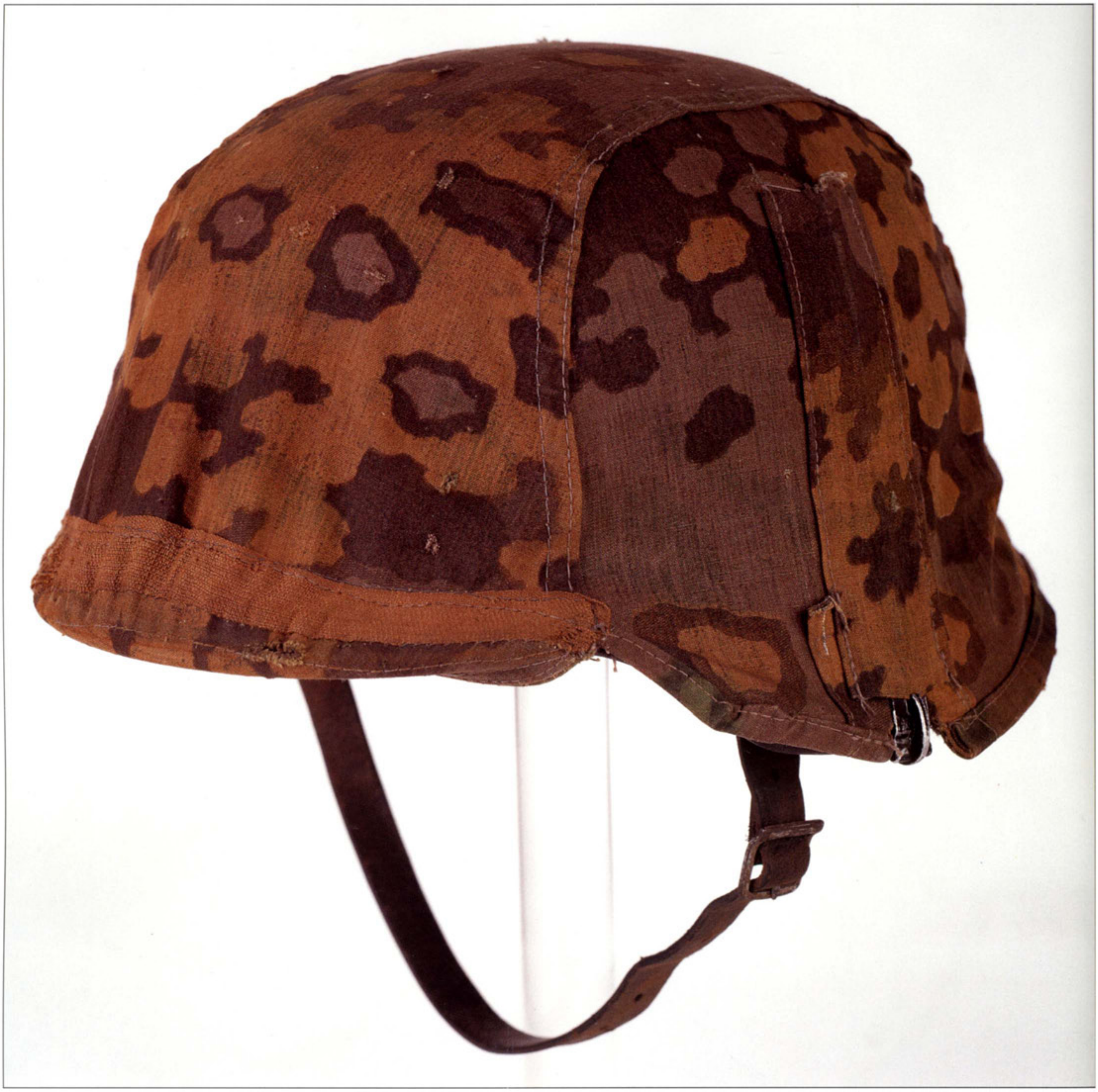


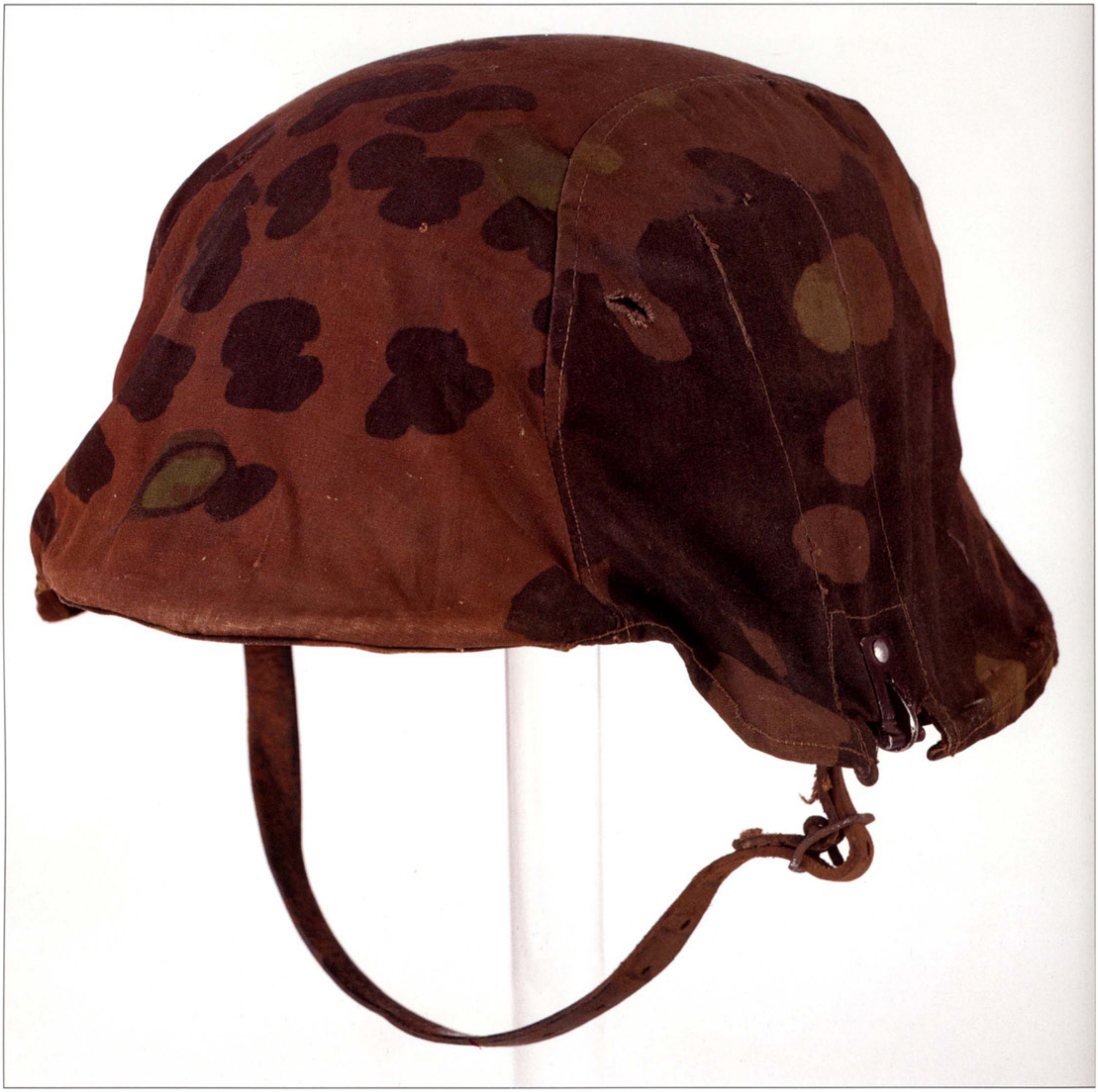




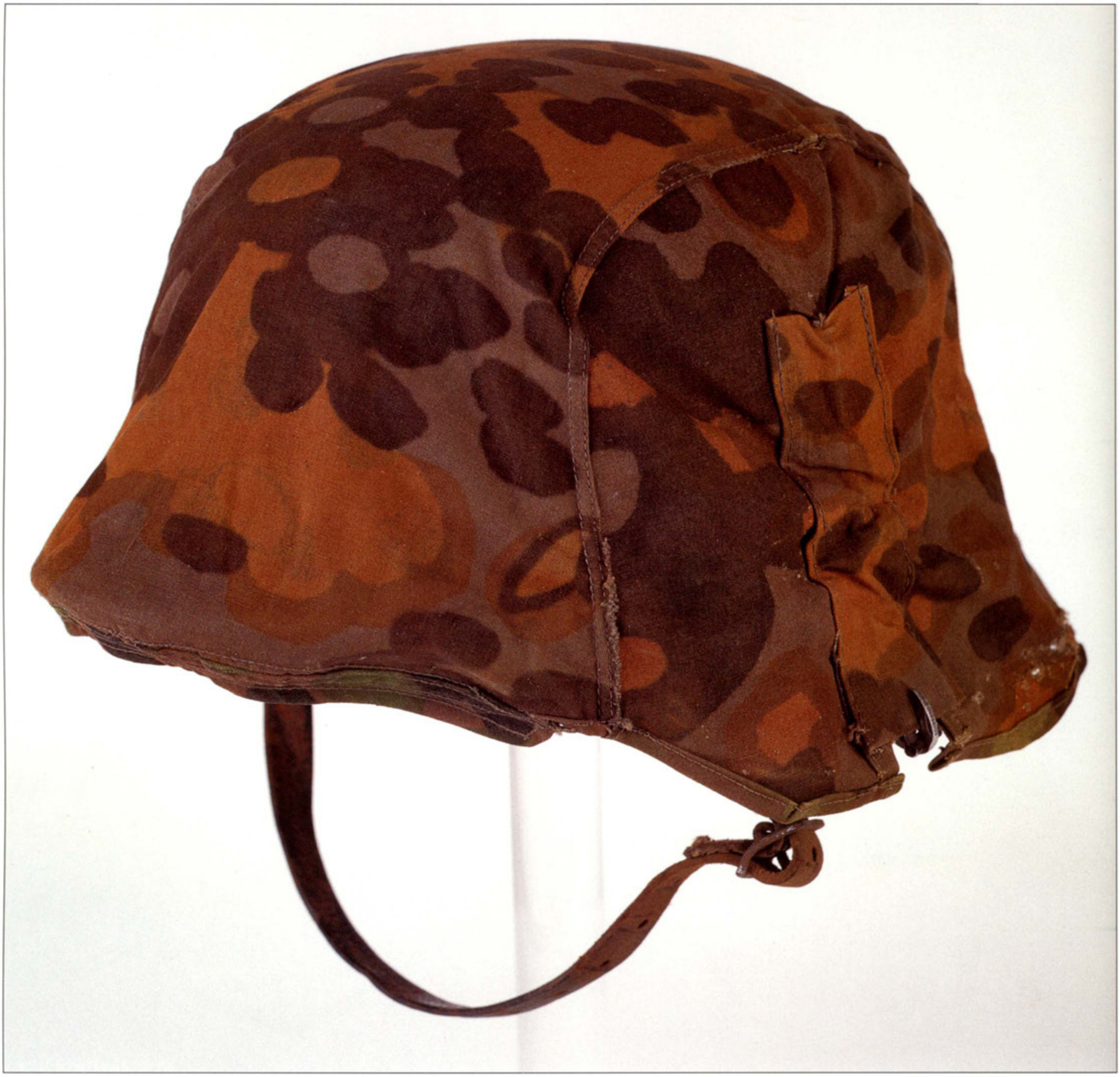


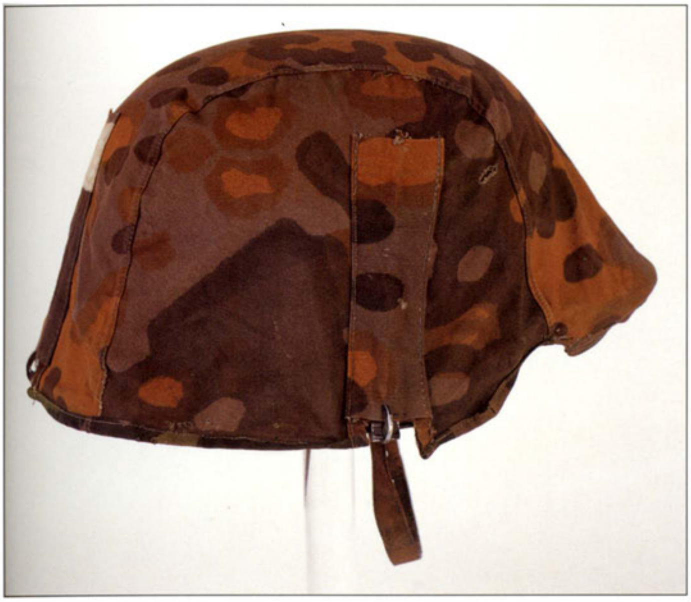
'SS regulation, first pattern cover, reversible spring/summer to autumn. It is secured to the rim by three spring-clips and has a reinforcing band across the visor. This is one of several covers picked up in La Gleize, Ardennes, Belgium after the battle for the town in December 1944. (Collection of Phillippe Gillain - December 44 Museum, La Gleize, Ardennes, Belgium)

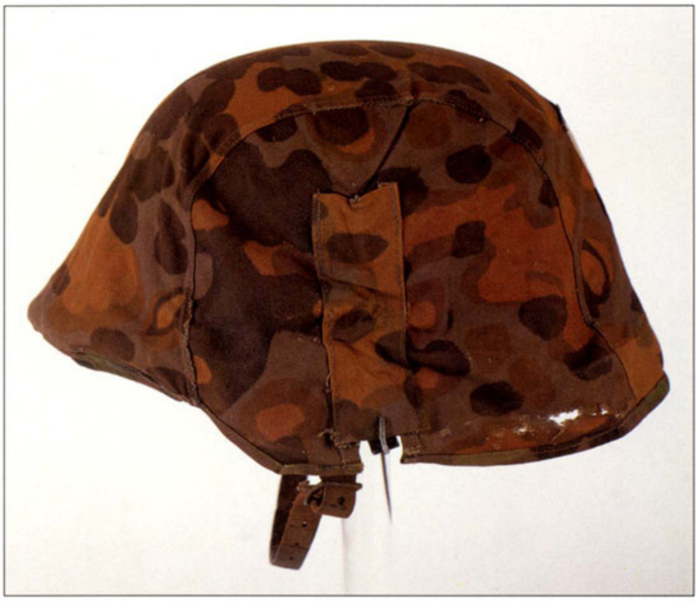


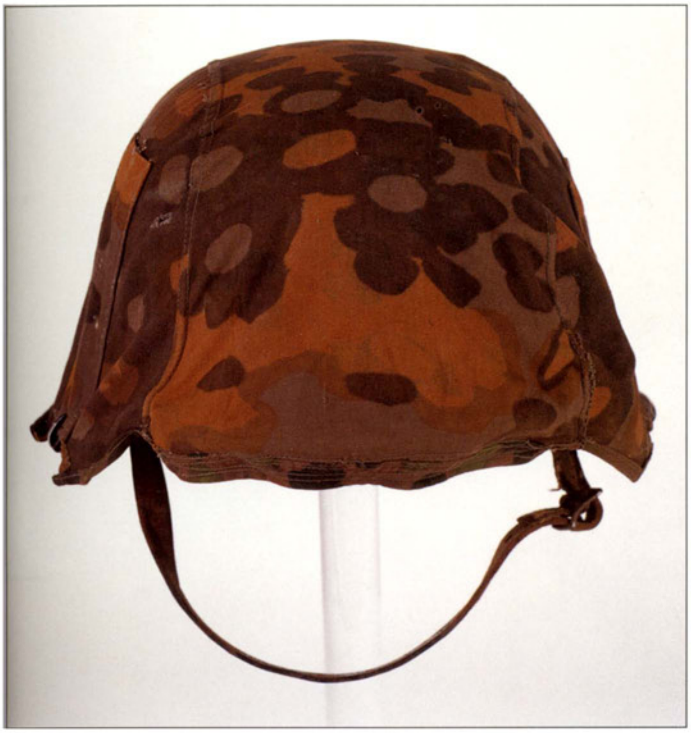


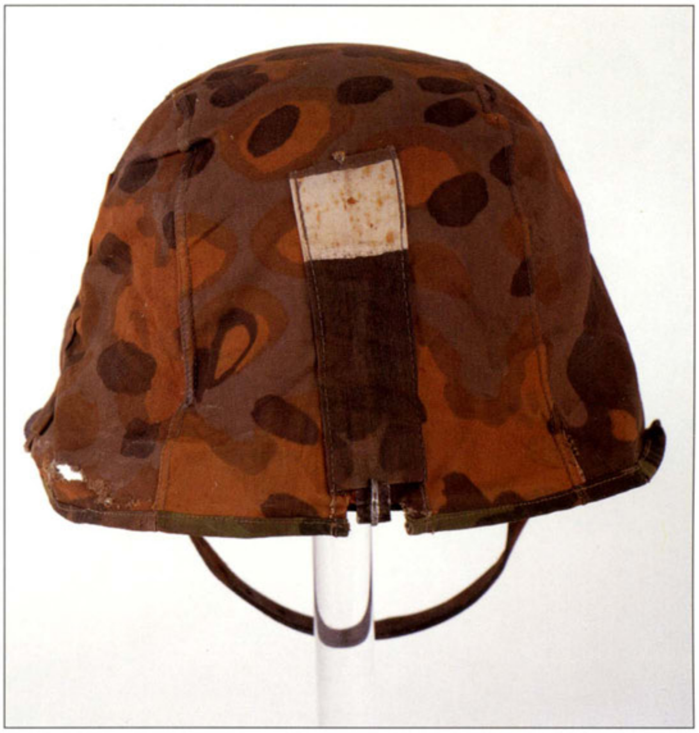
SS first pattern variation, reversible spring/summer to autumn. This model has no reinforcing band across the visor. On the autumn side rear spring cover is what seems to be a manufacturing error – an area of unprinted material. Picked up in La Gleize, Ardennes, Belgium after the battle for the town in December 1944. (Collection of Phillippe Gillain - December 44 Museum, La Gleize, Ardennes, Belgium)

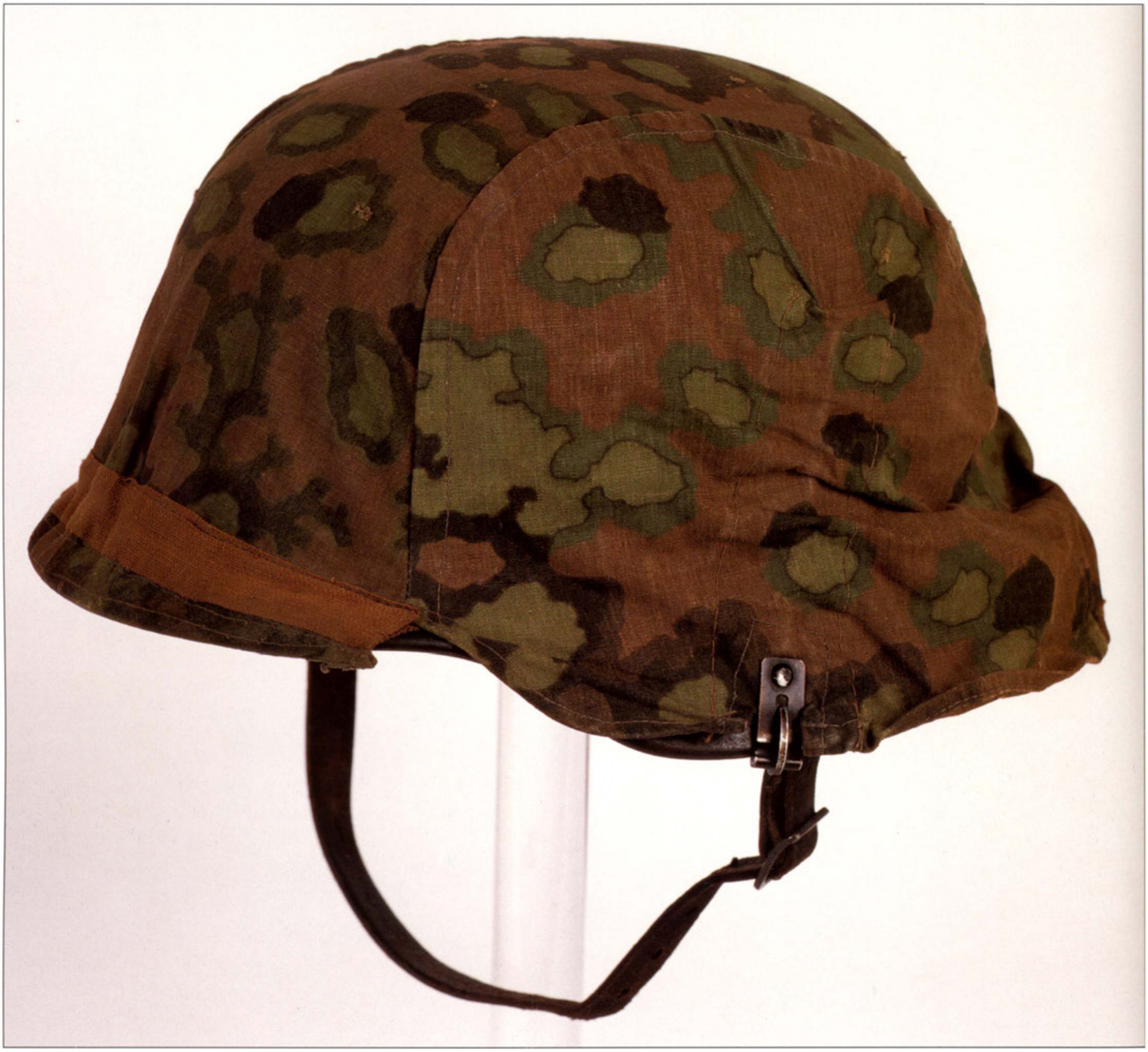




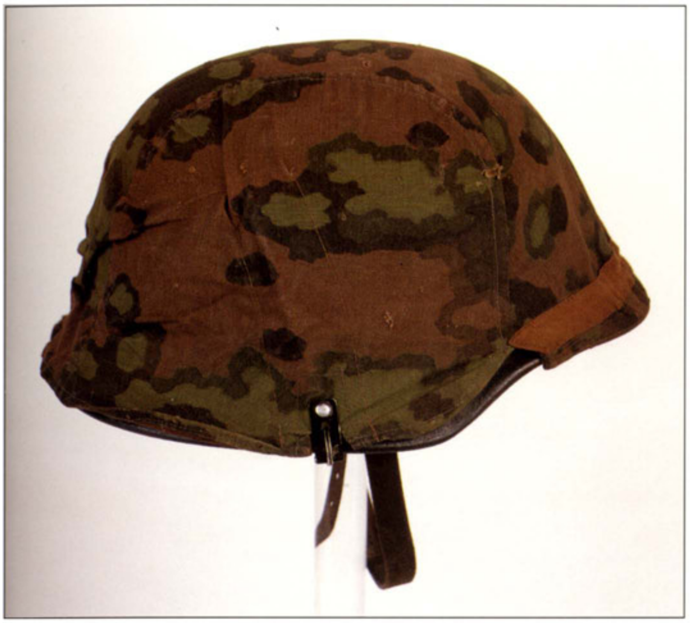


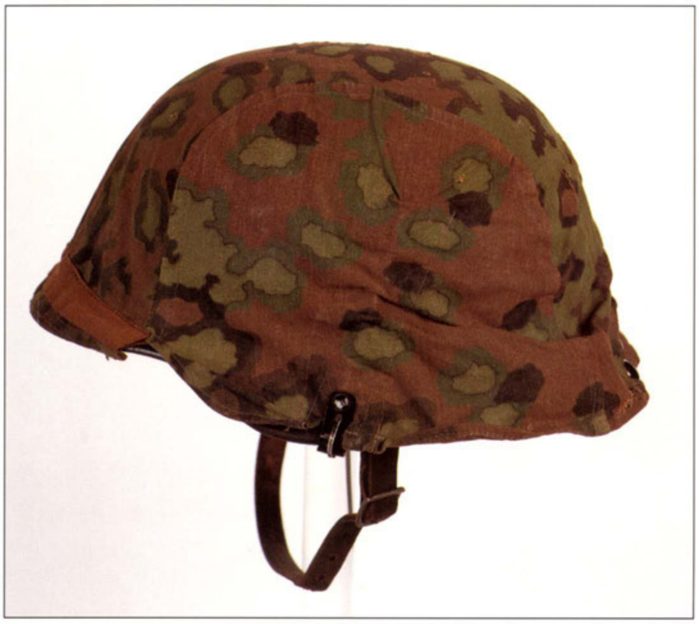


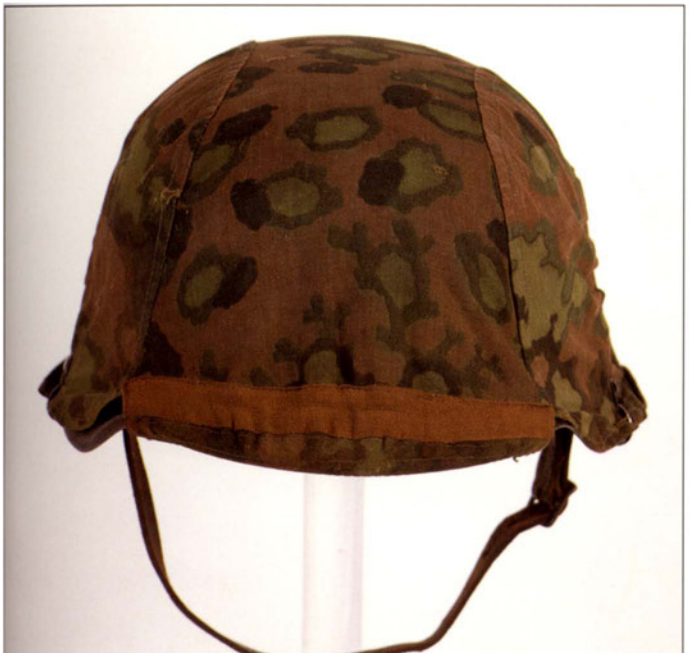


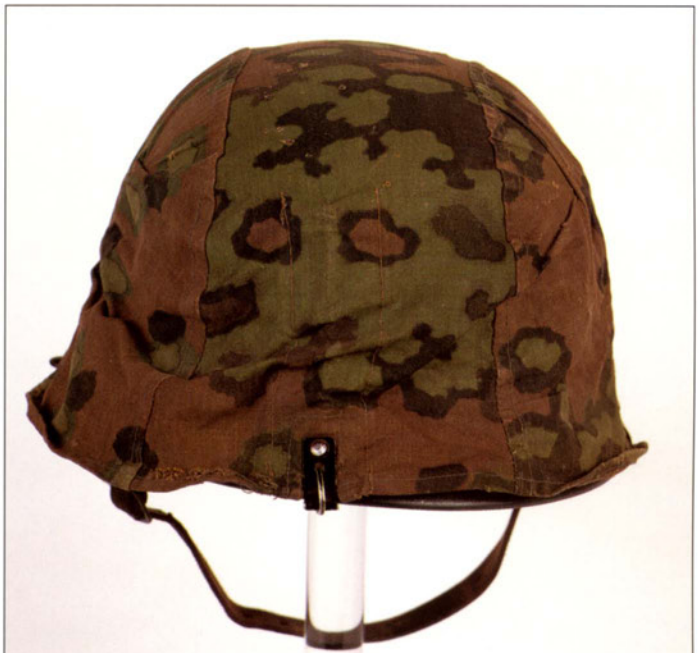


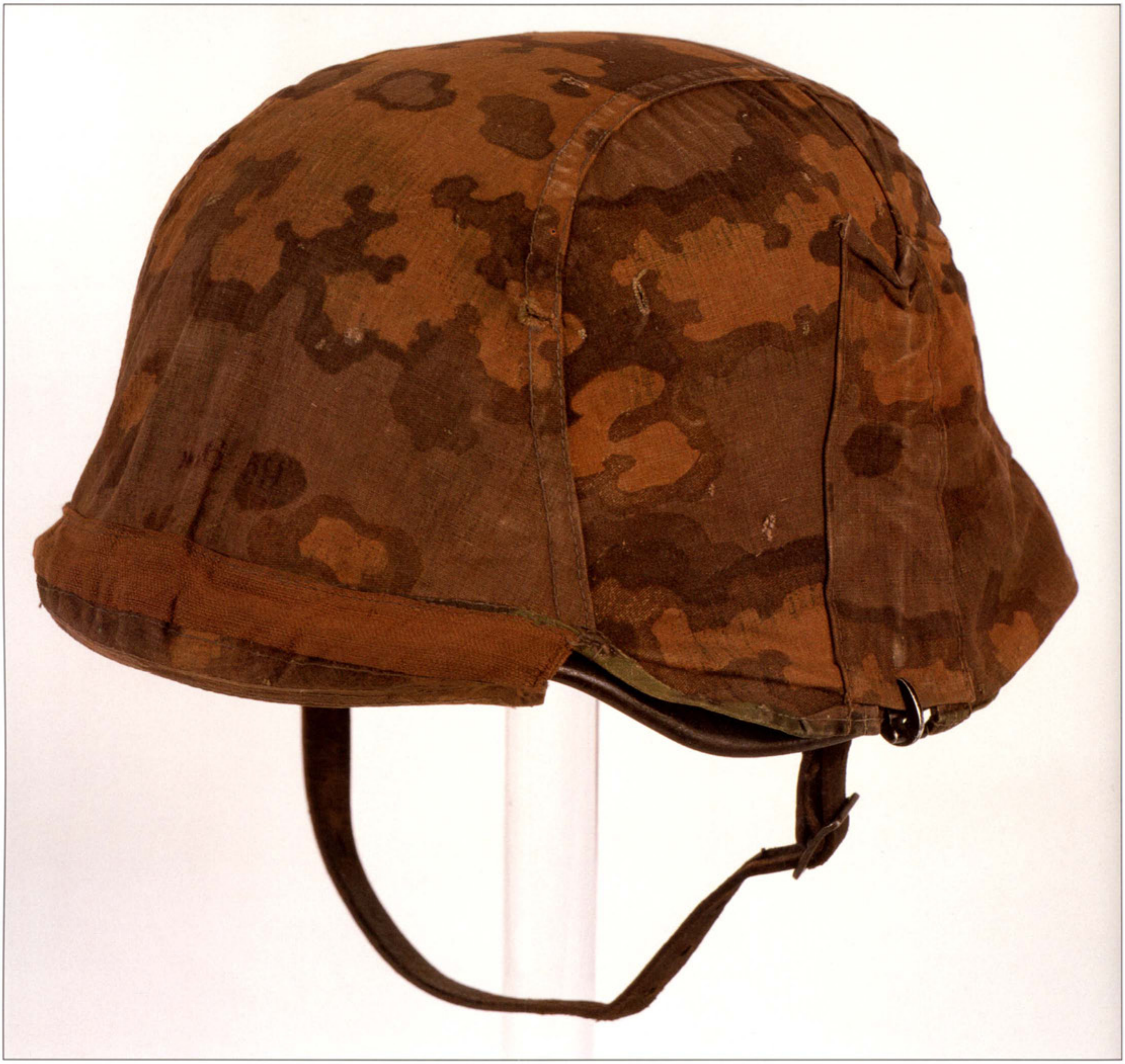
■ Another SS regulation first pattern variation, with reinforcing band across the visor. (Collection of Bill Shea - Ruptured Duck)

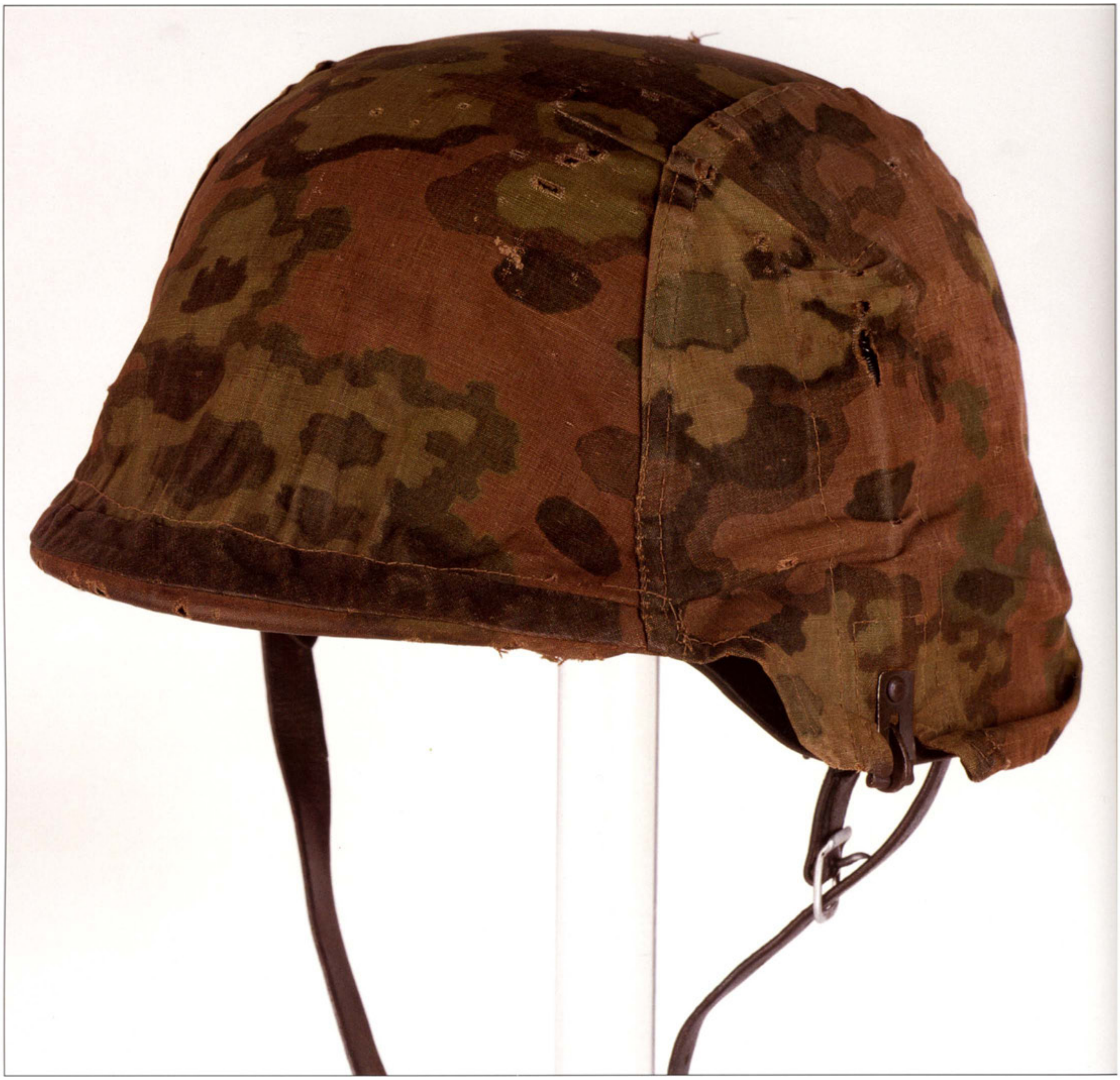




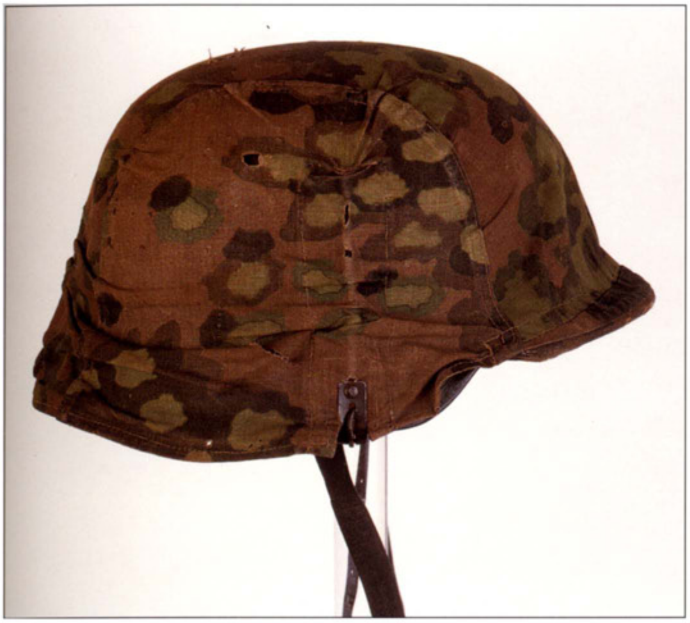


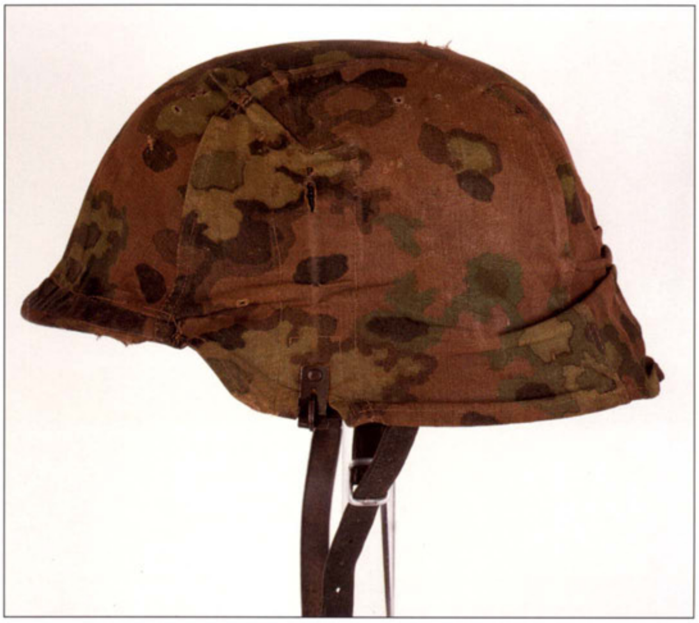


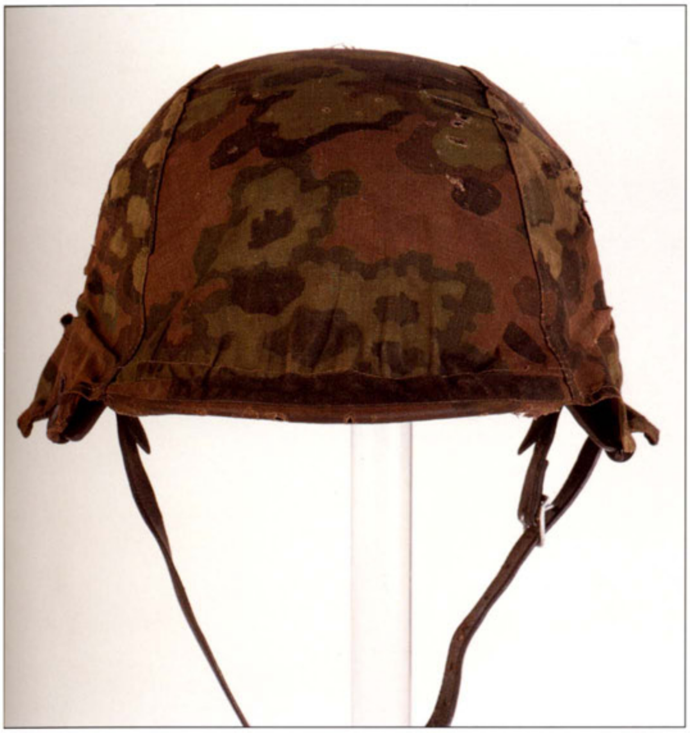


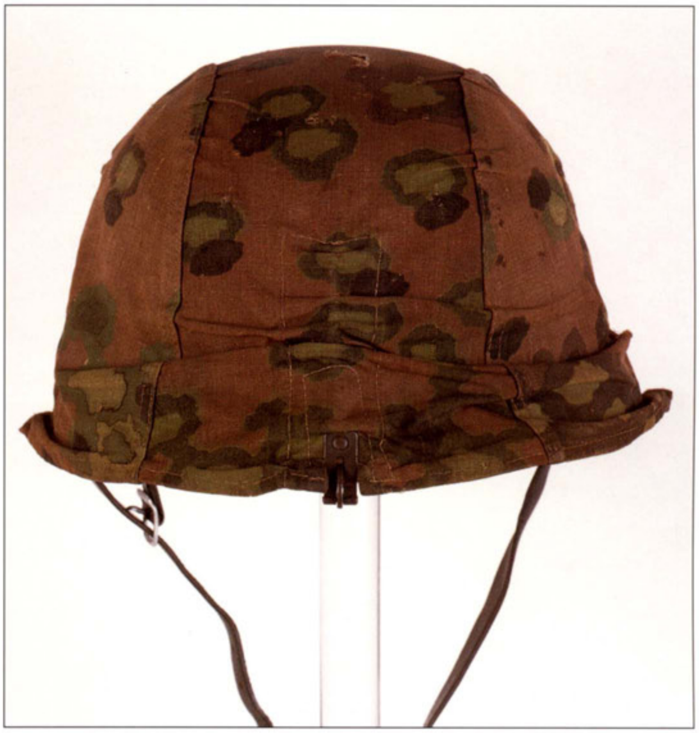


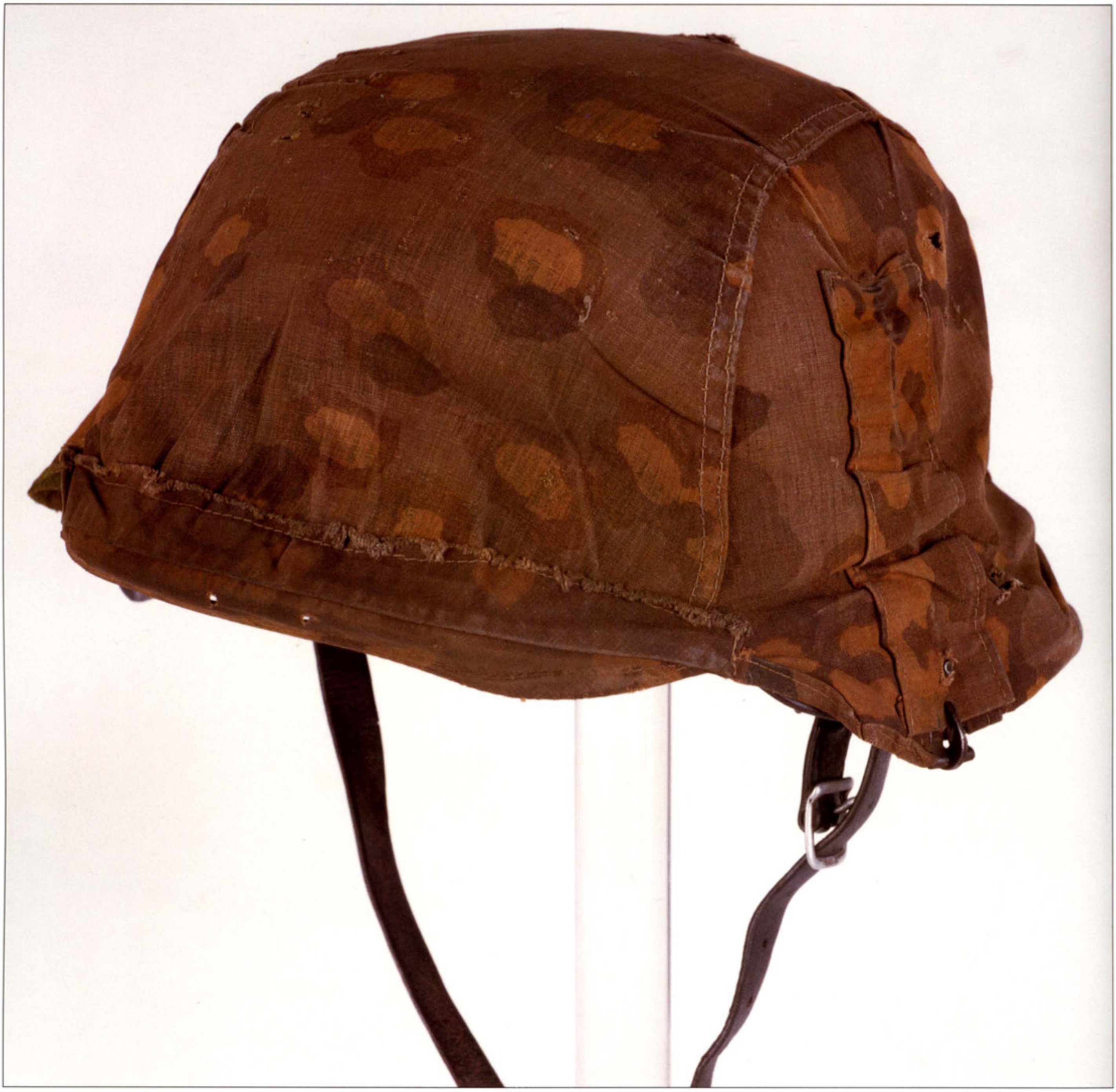
■ Another regulation first pattern variation, with reinforcing band across the visor. (Collection of Chris Jones)

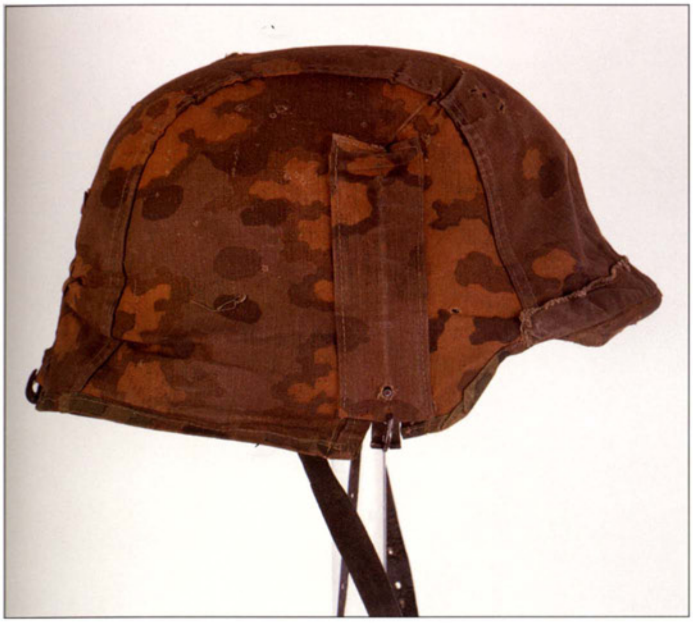


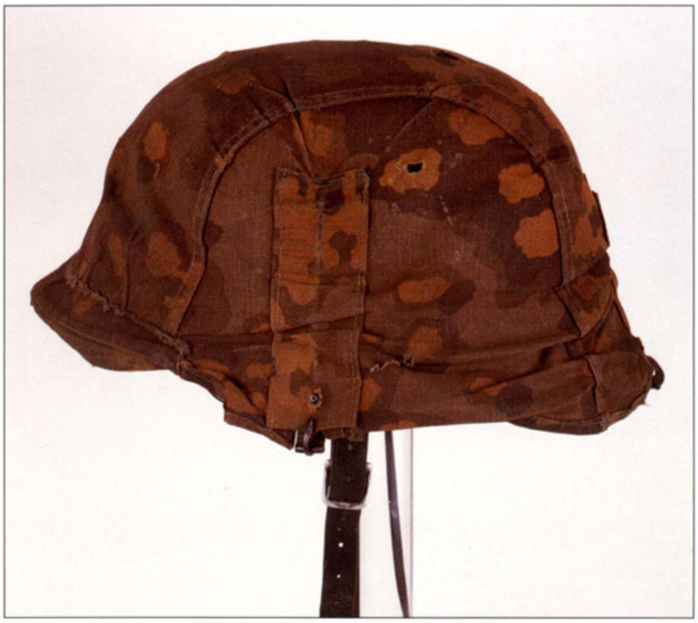


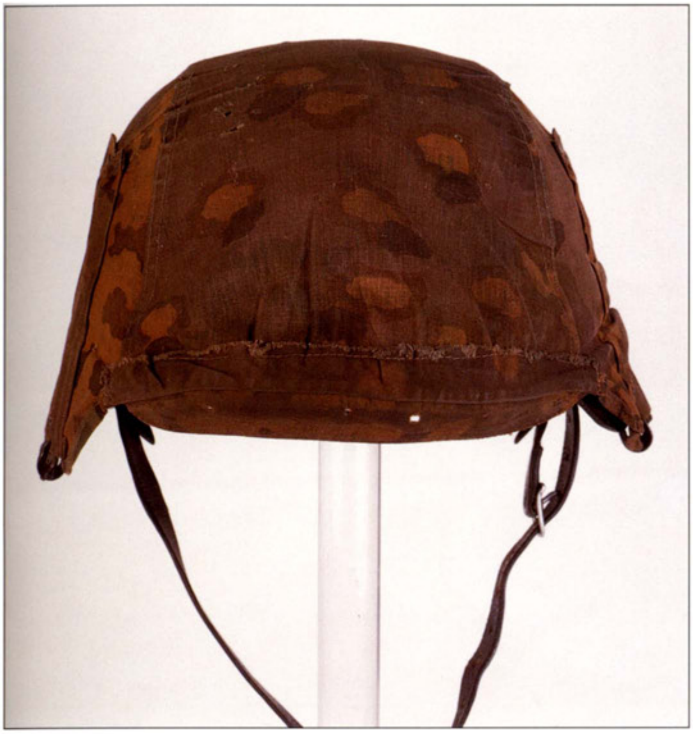


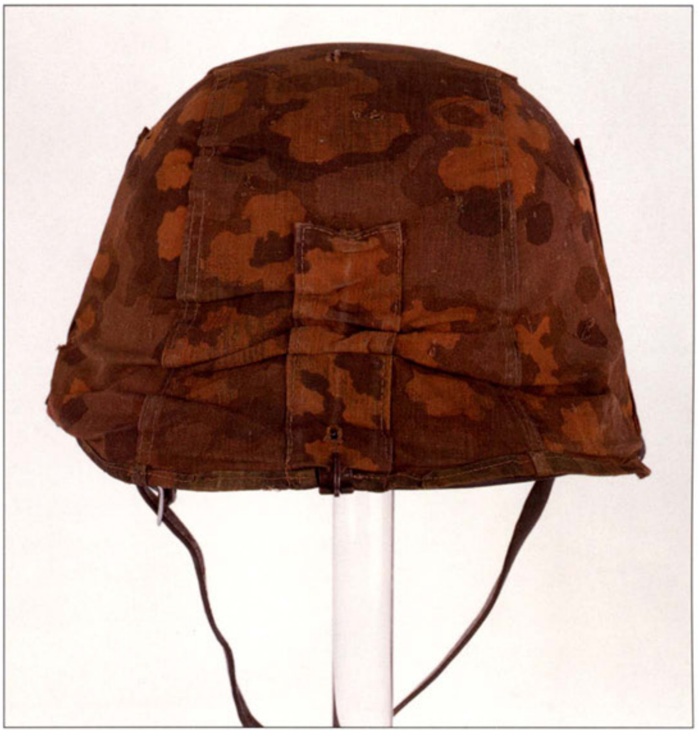


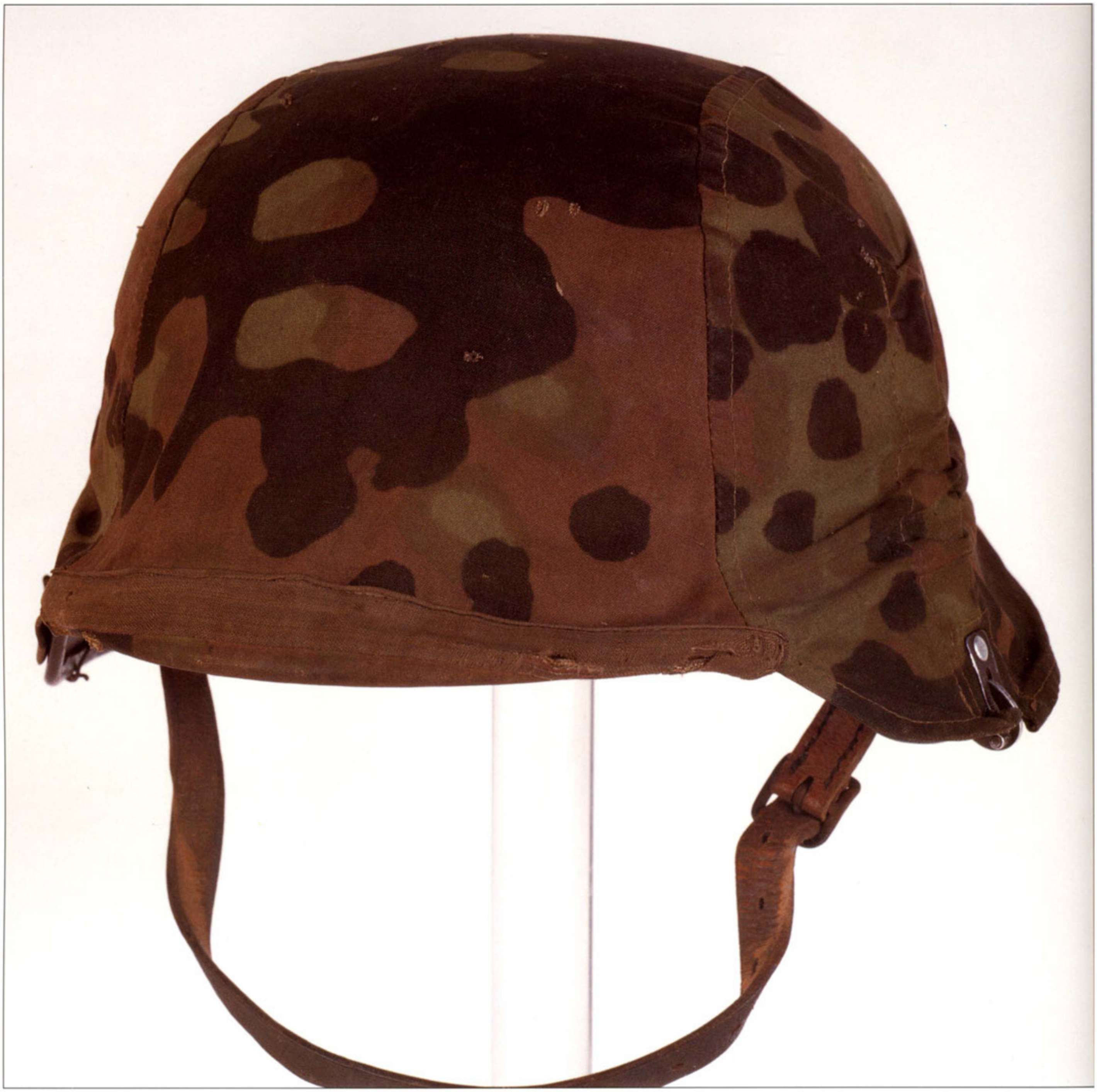




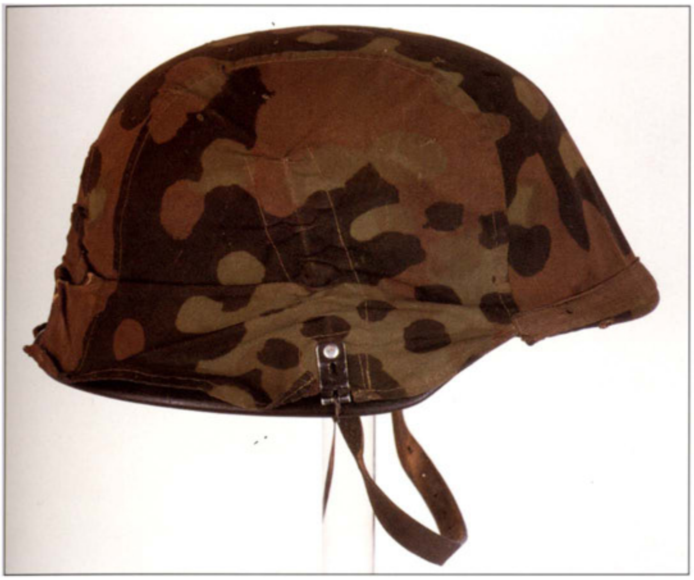


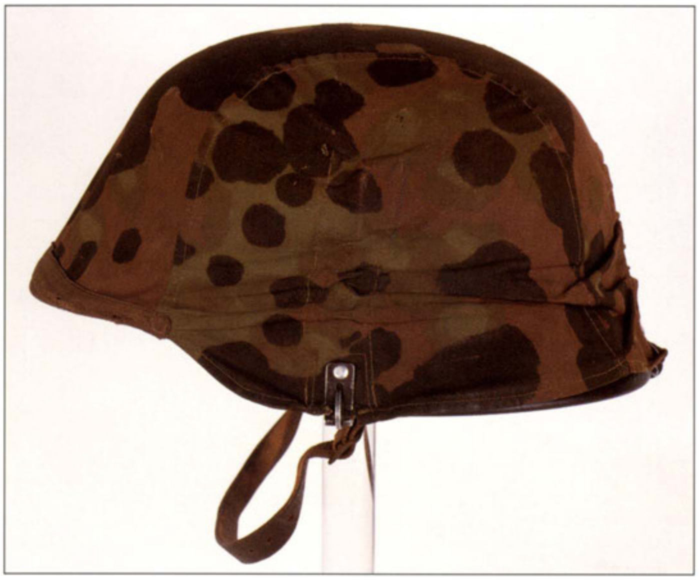


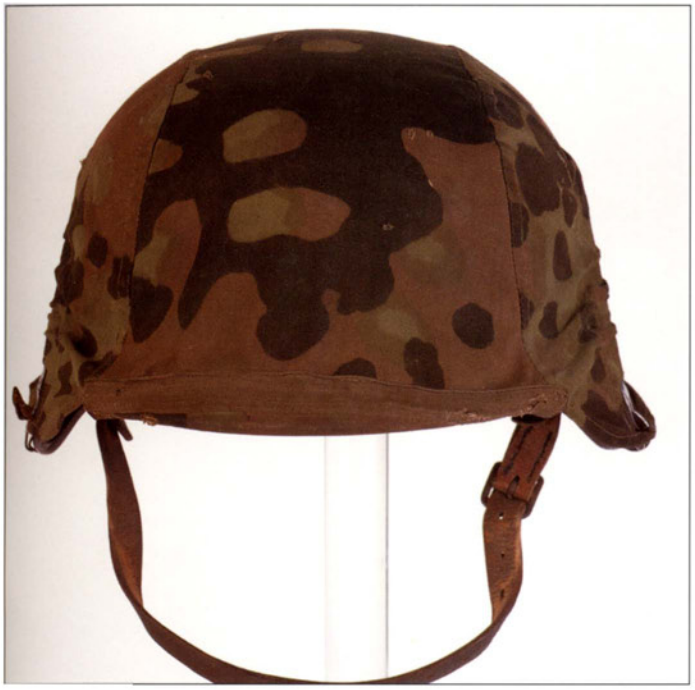


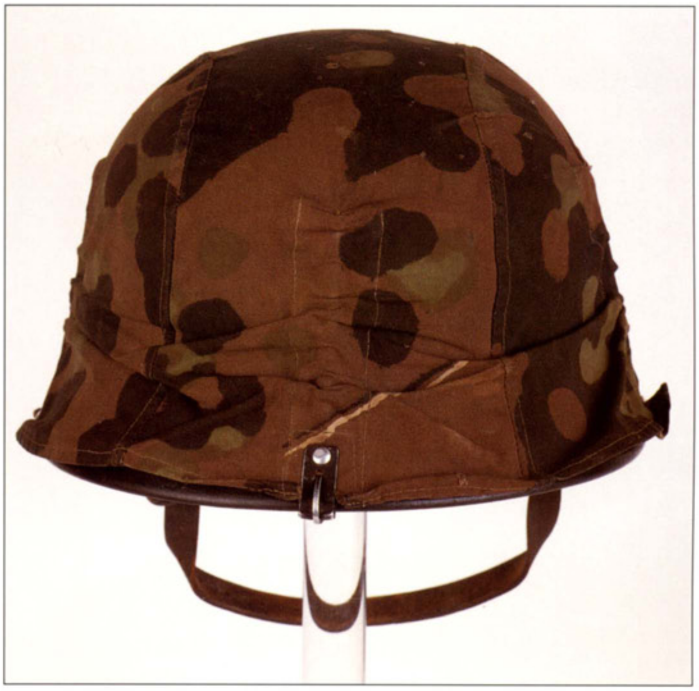


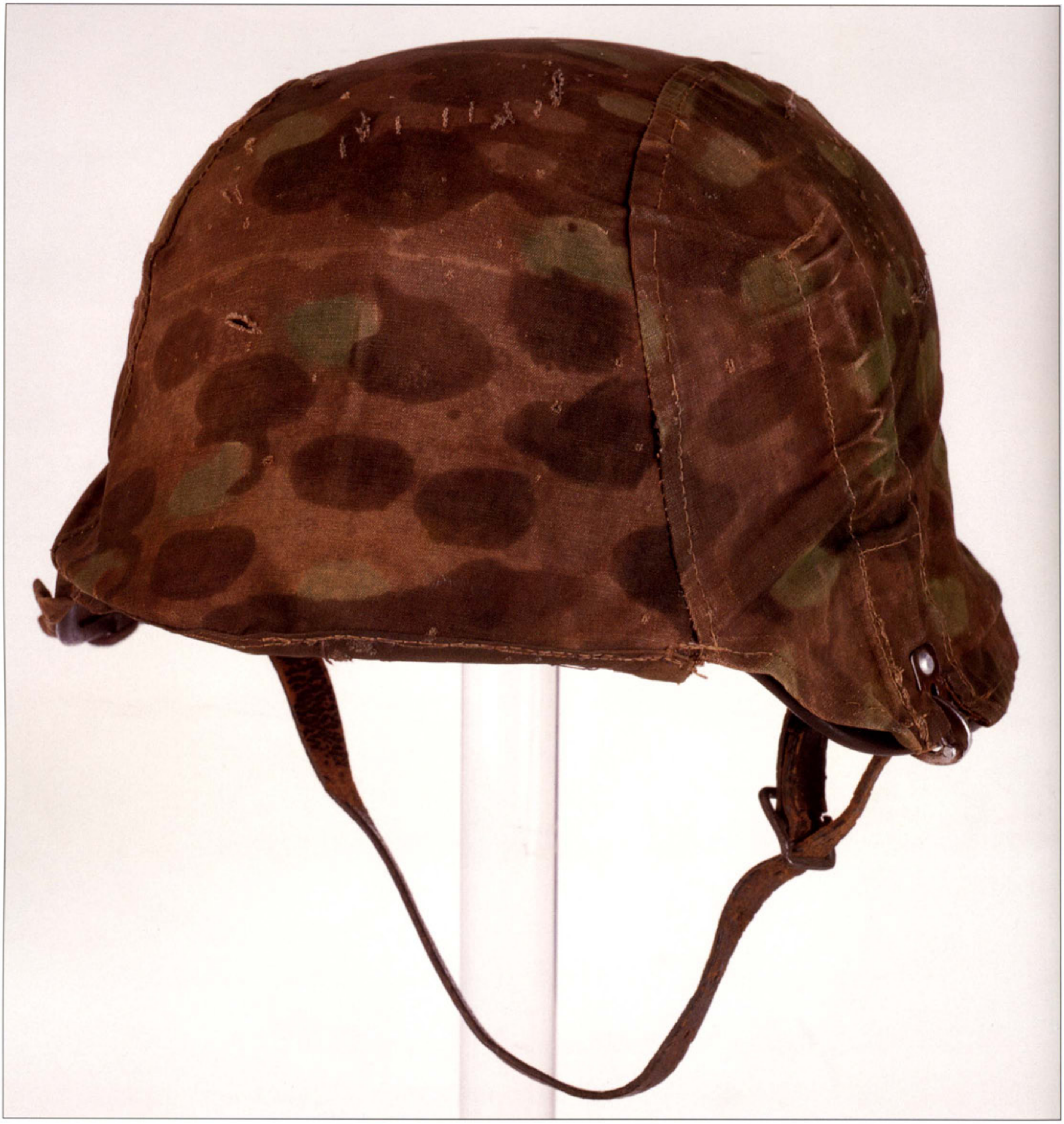
■ Early SS regulation first pattern variation, with reinforcing band across the visor. It has a manufacturing error of mis-registration across the rear. (Collection of Chris Jones)



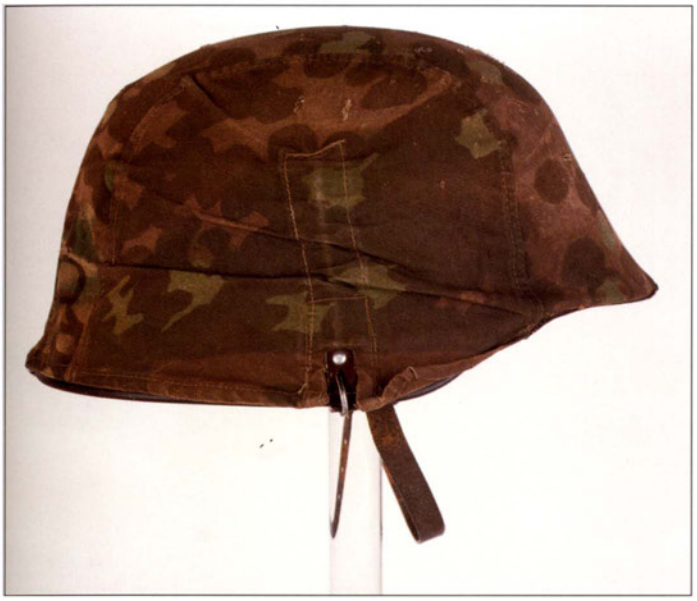


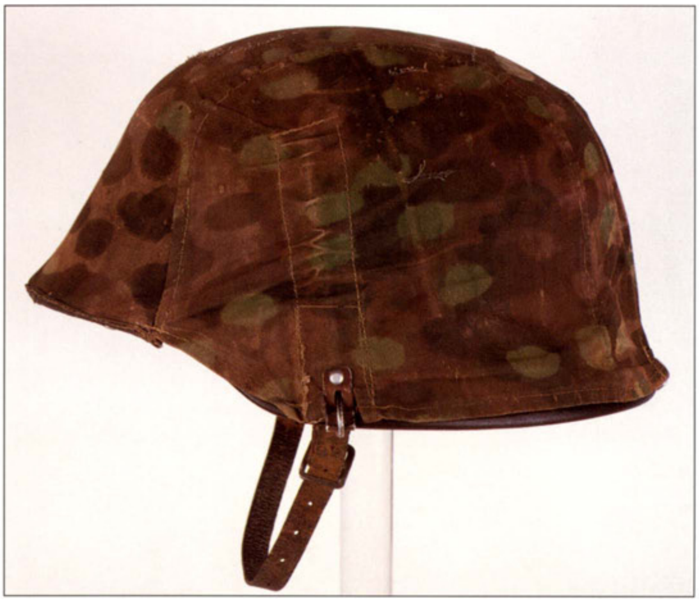


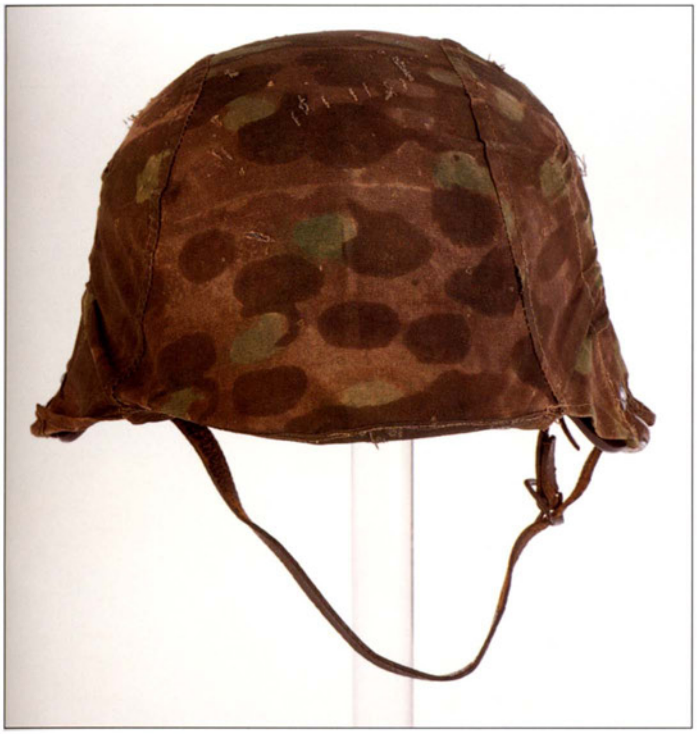


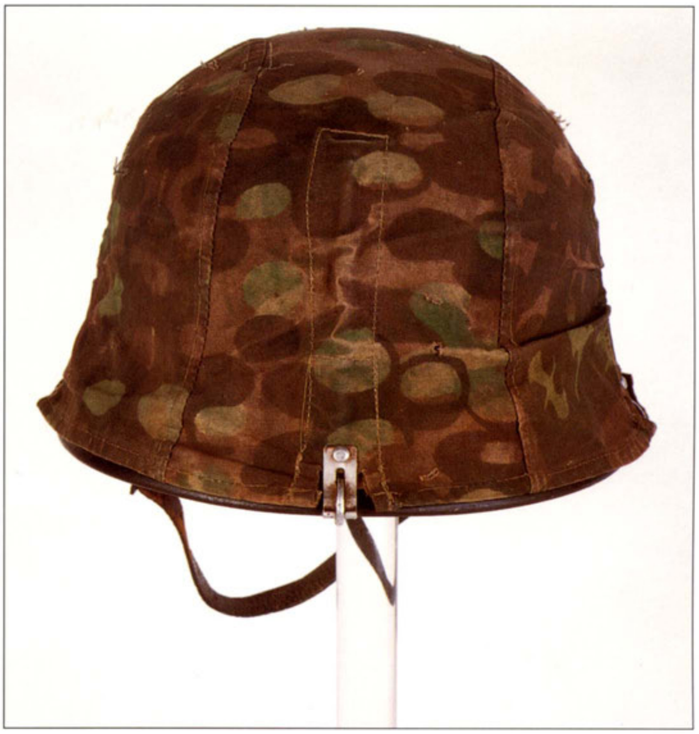


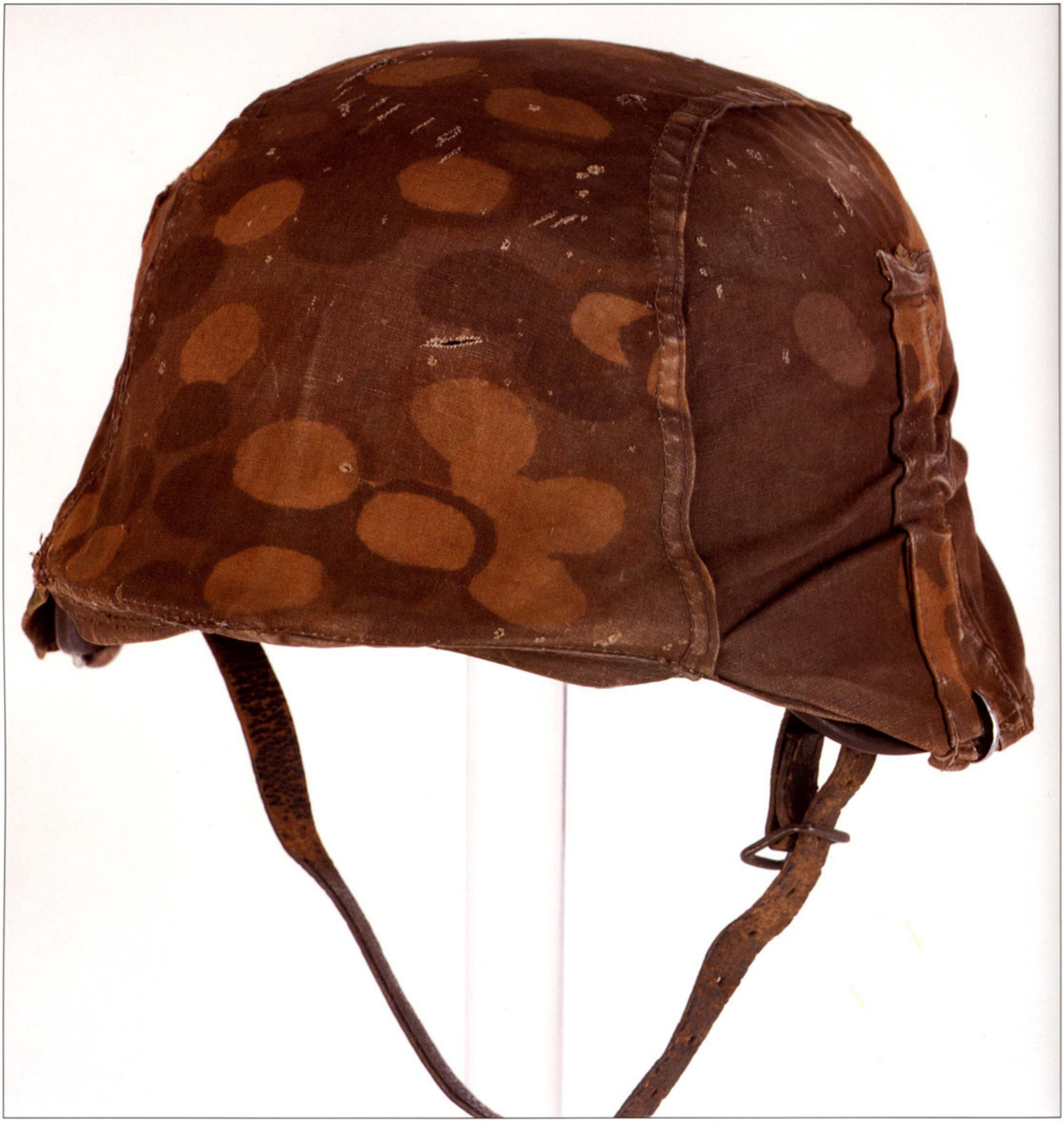
Early SS regulation first pattern variation cover without reinforced band across the visor.

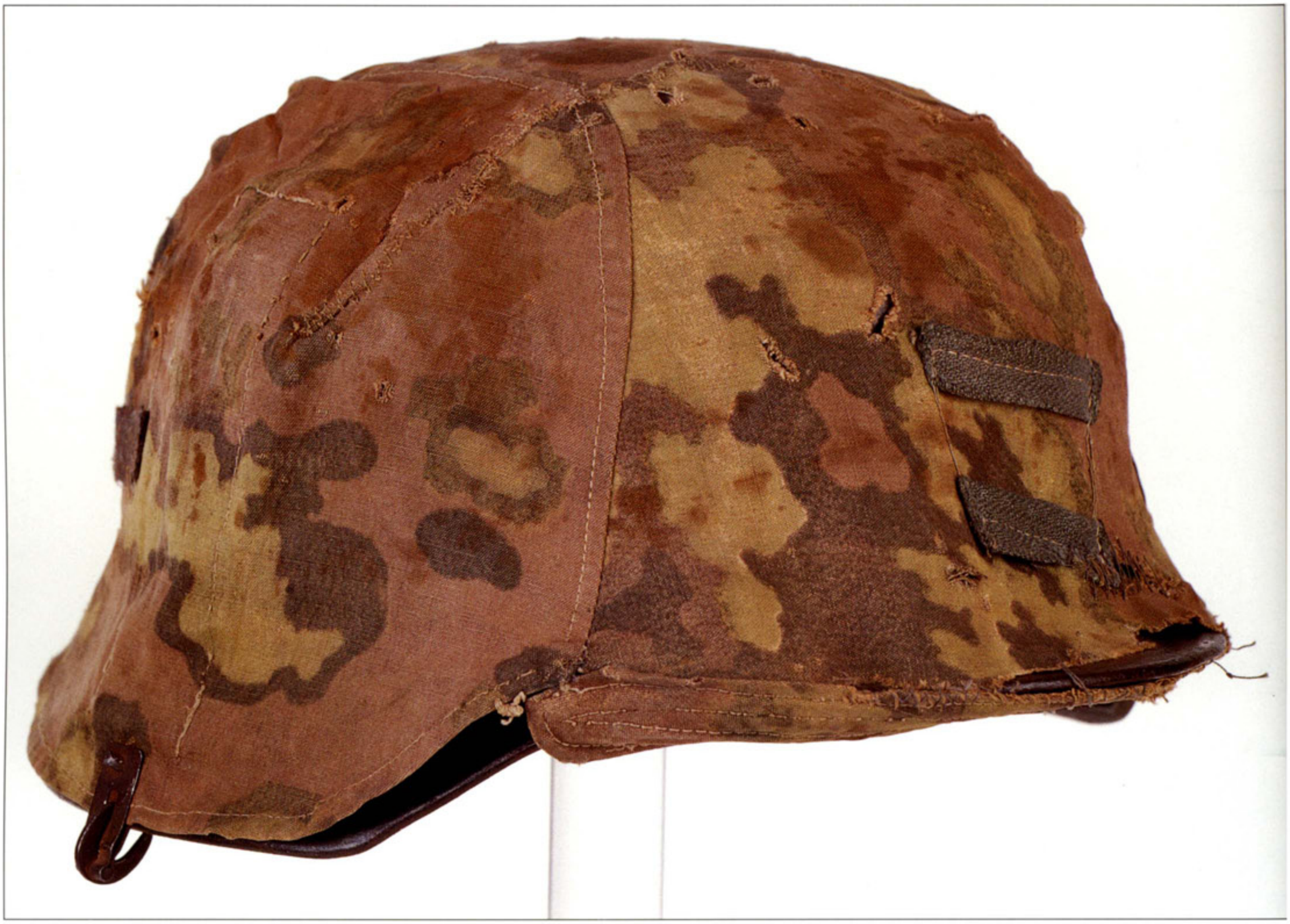




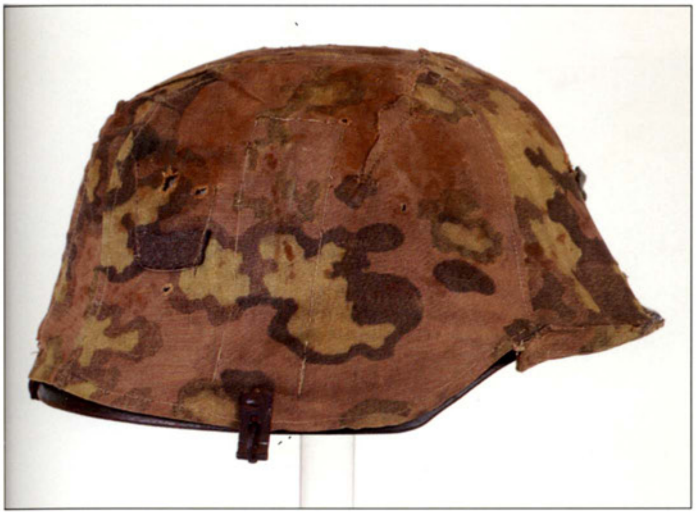


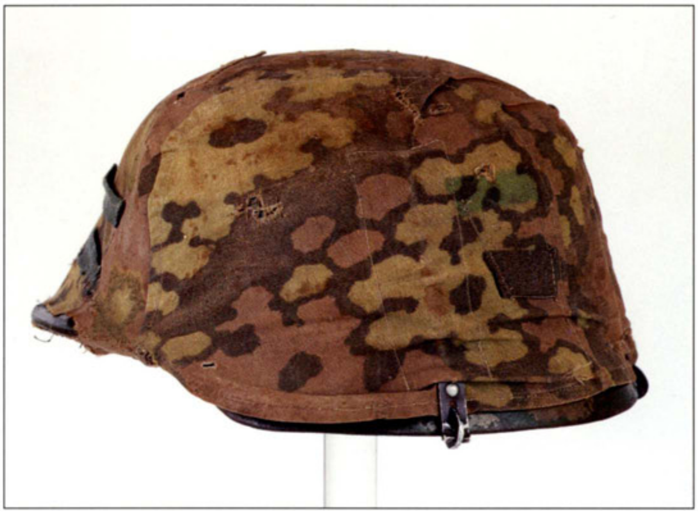


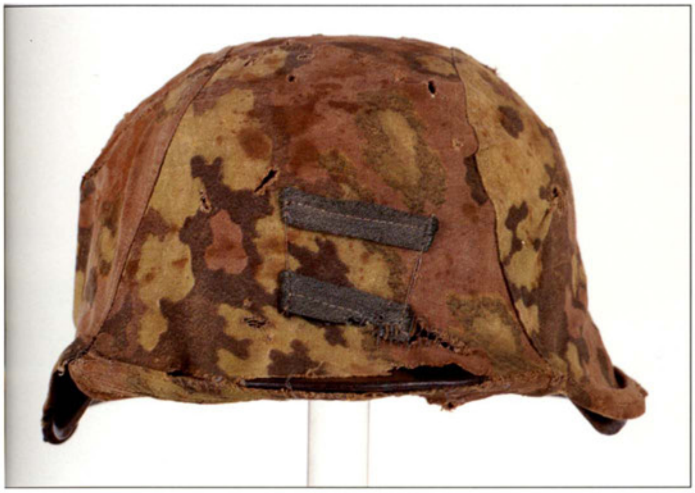


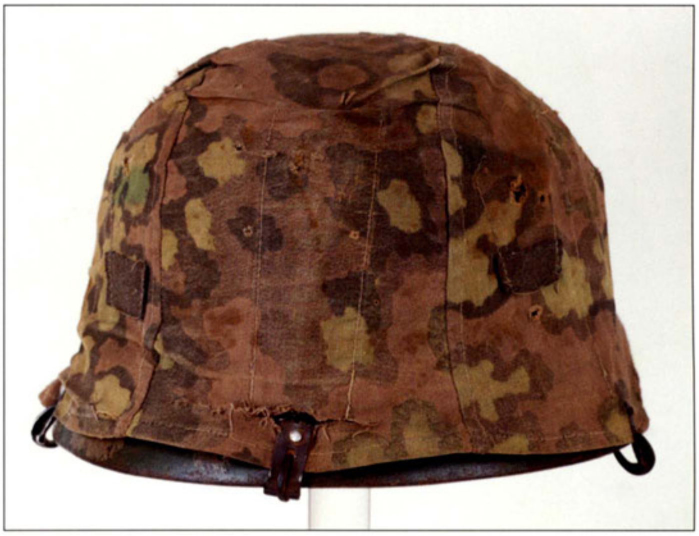


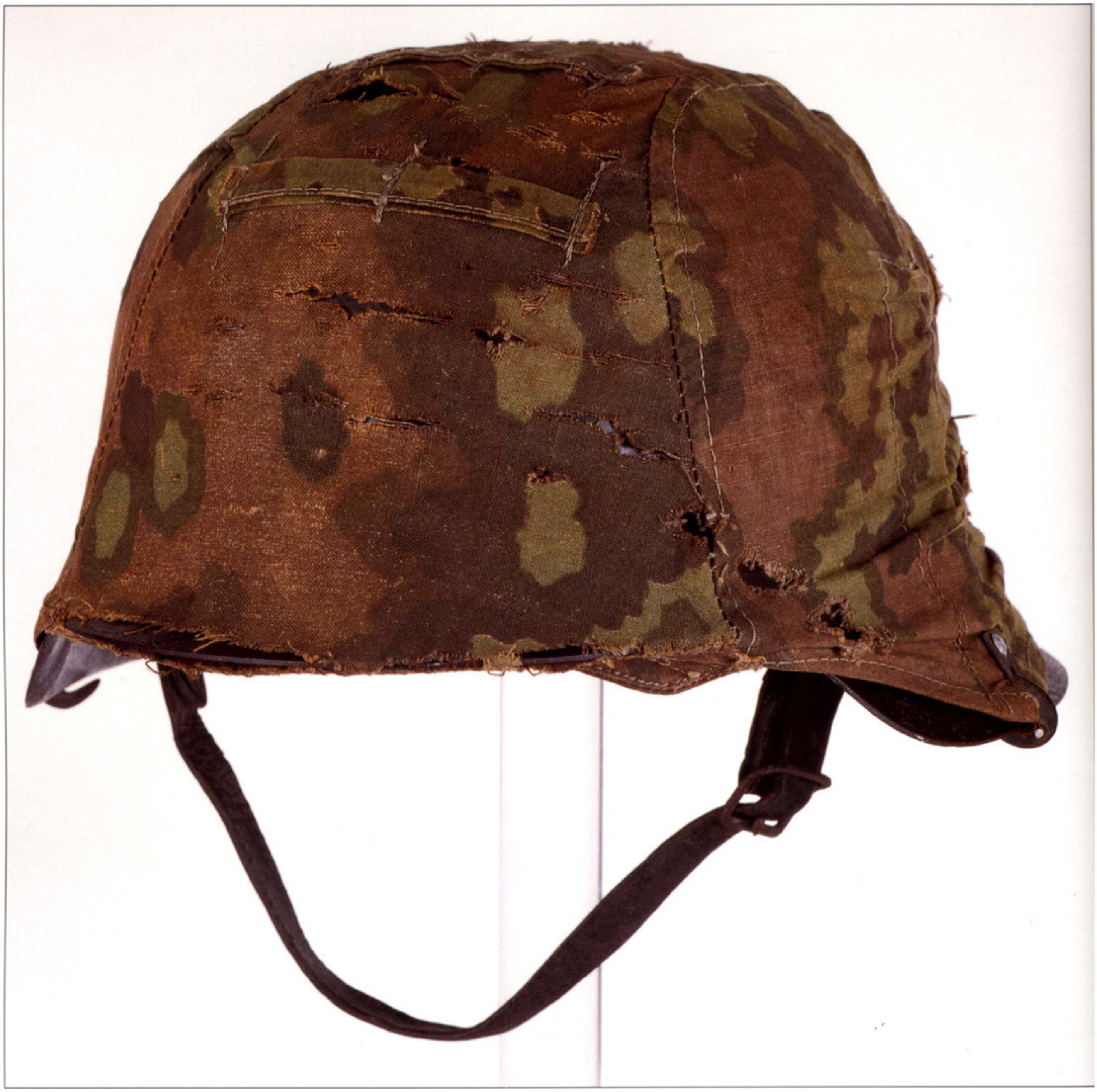
■ SS regulation first pattern variation, with no reinforcing band across the visor. The original owner has added homemade loops for camouflage from what seems to be uniform material. (Collection of the author)



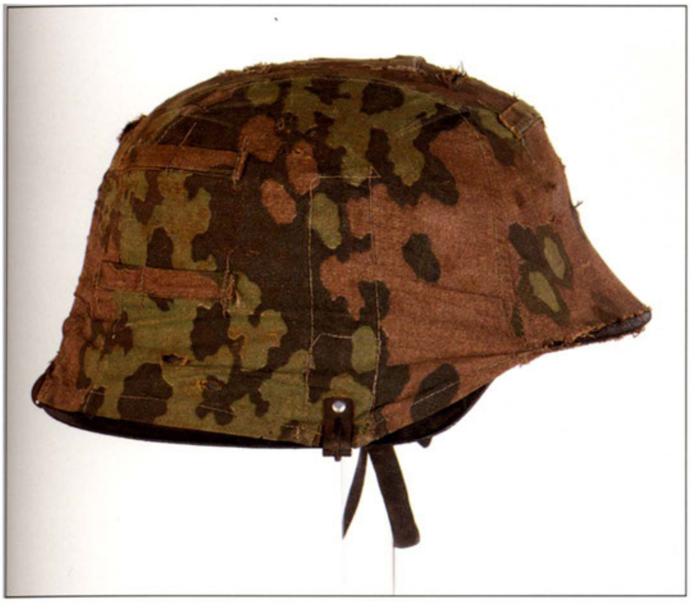


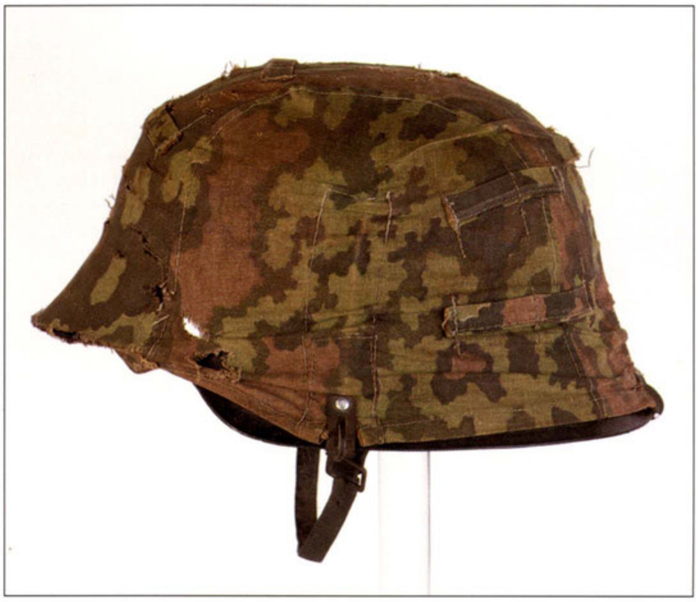


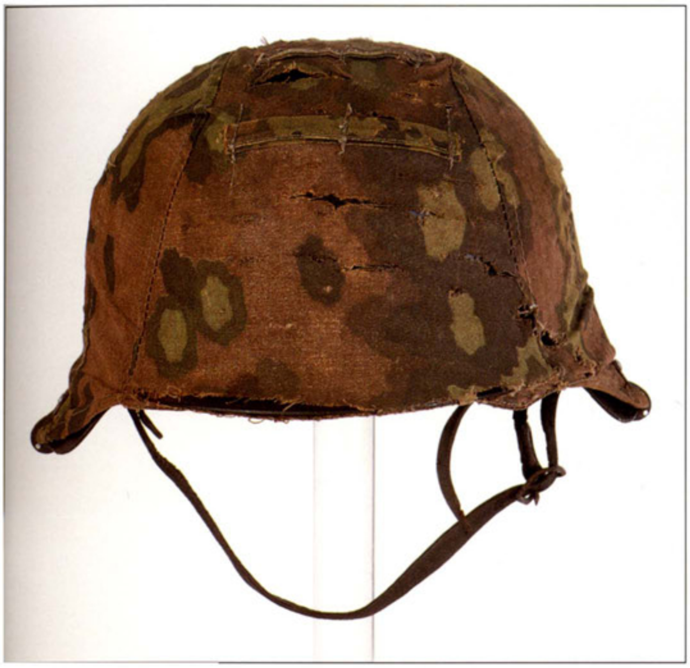


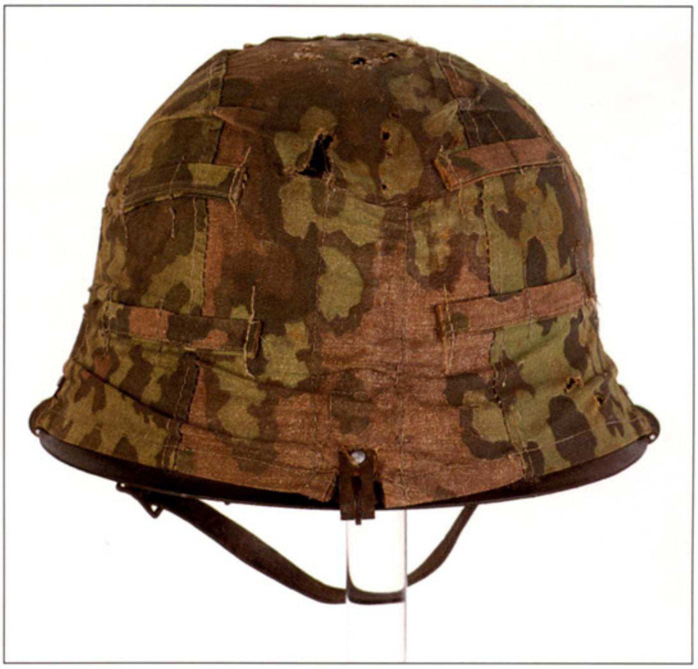


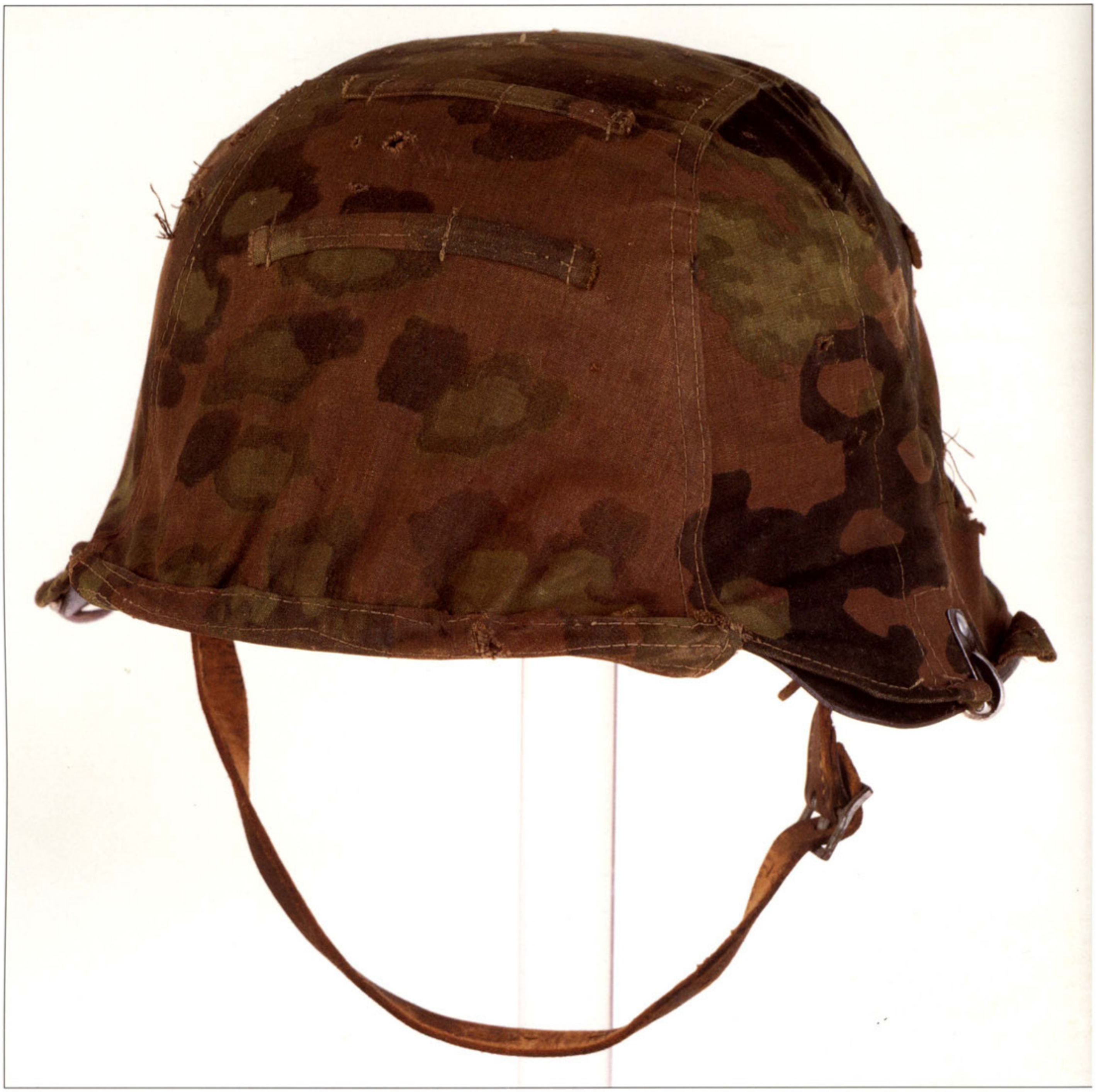
■ SS regulation second pattern cover, with loops for camouflage. (Collection of Chris Jones)



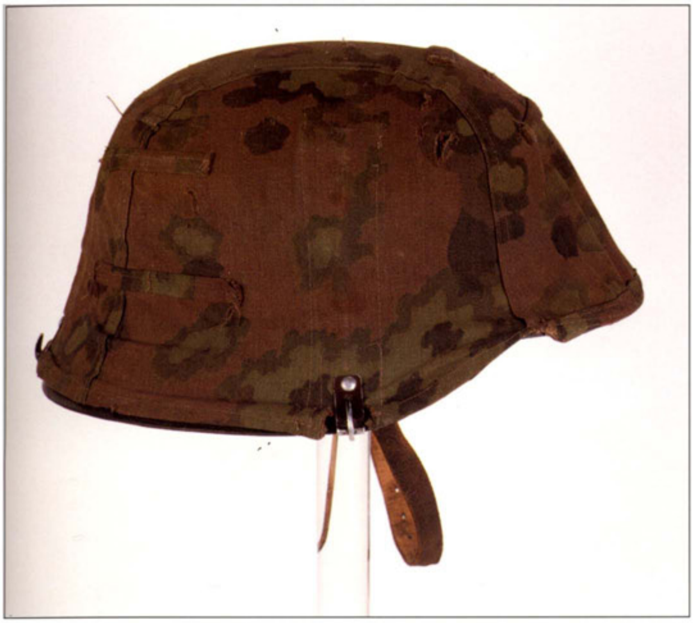


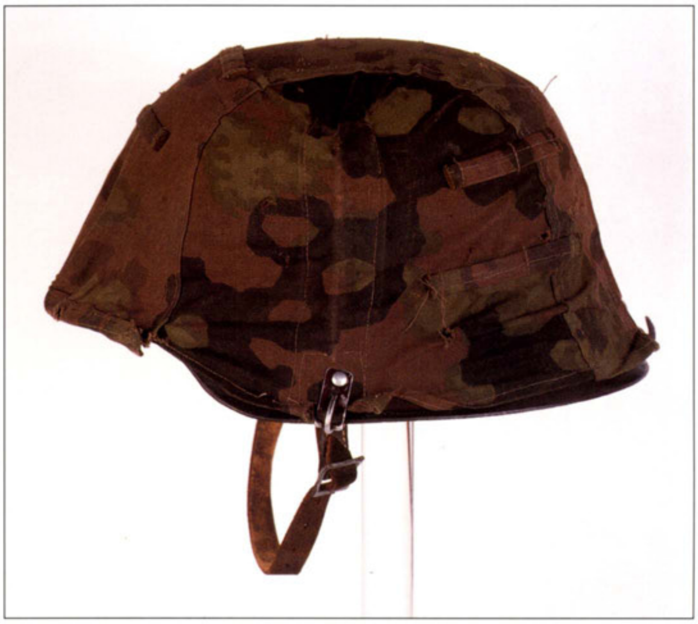


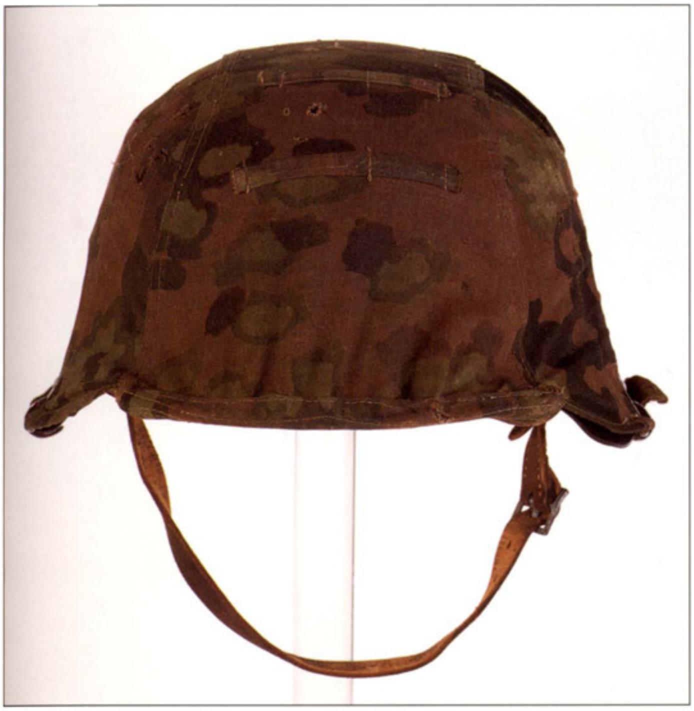


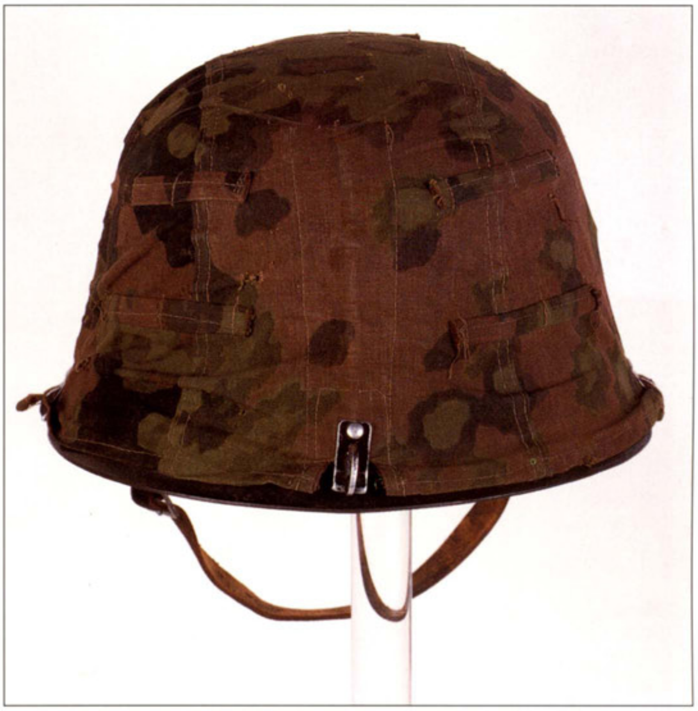


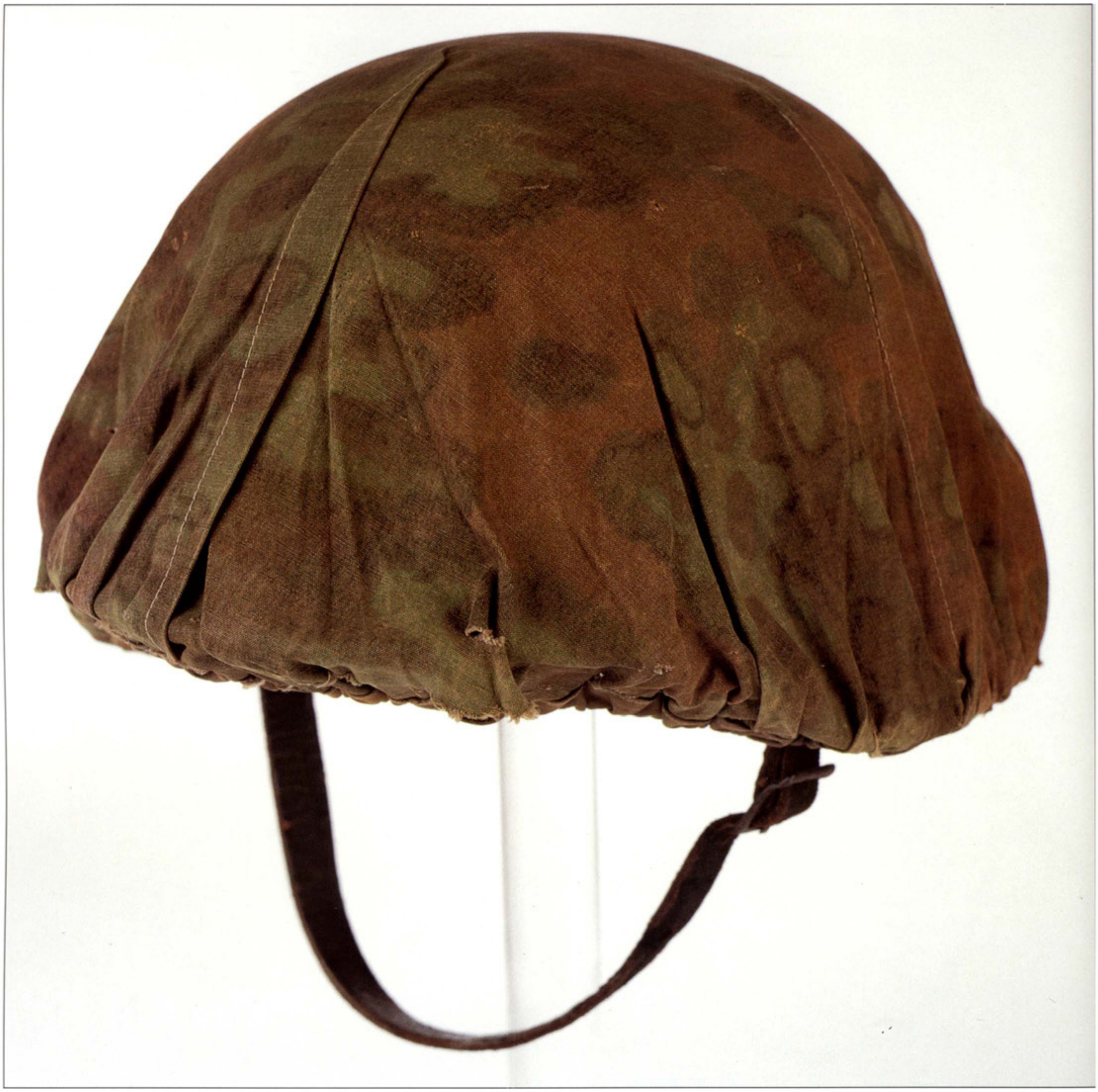
■ SS regulation second pattern variation. (Collection of Chris Jones)



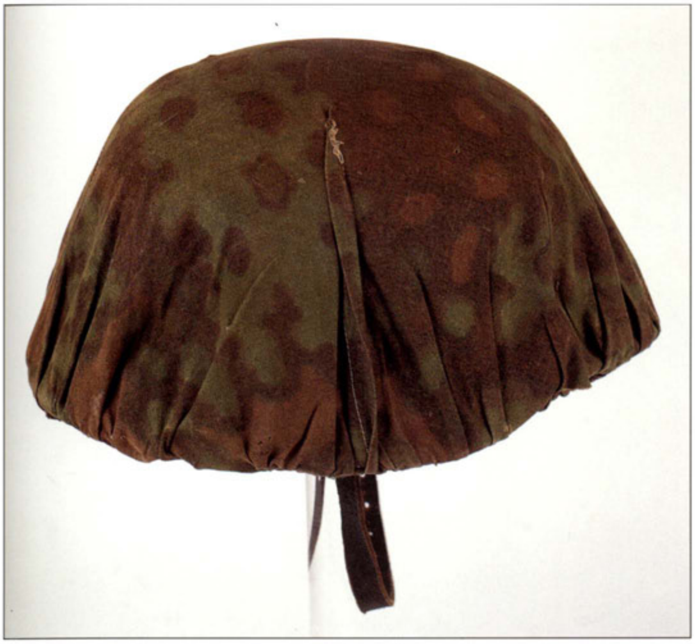


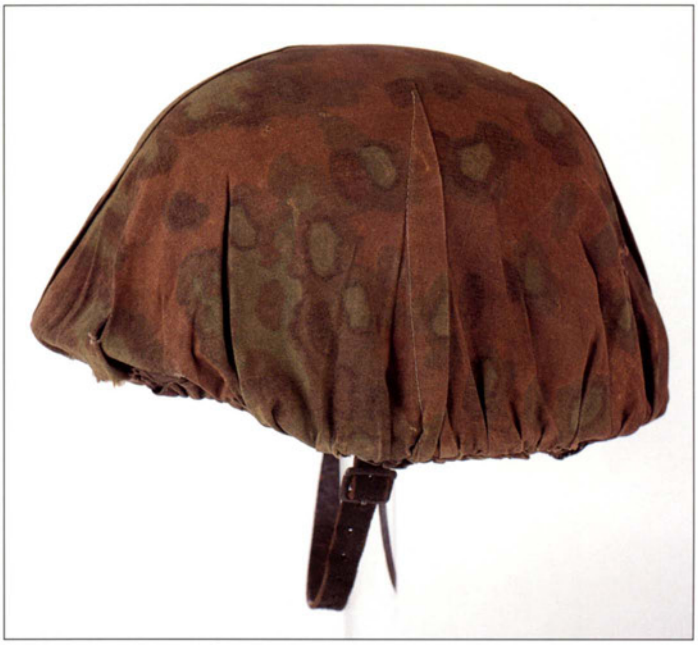


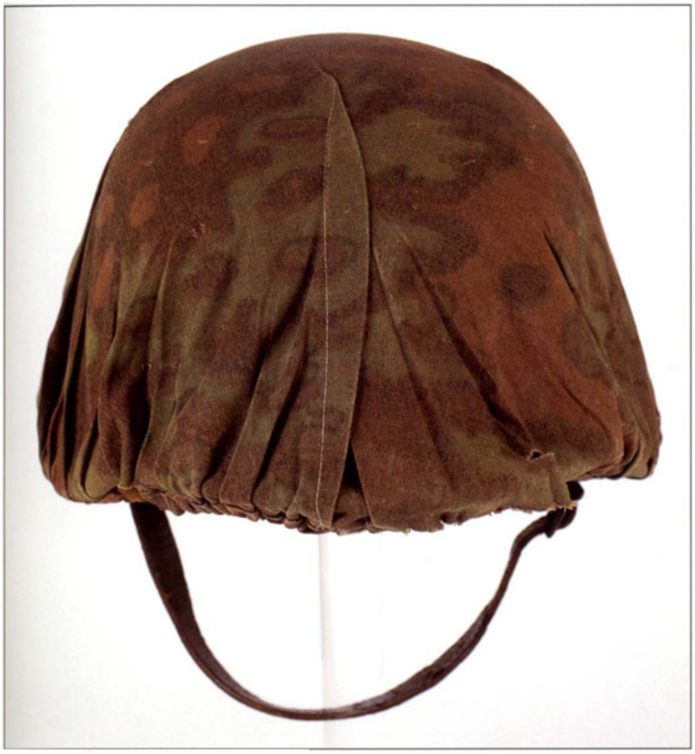


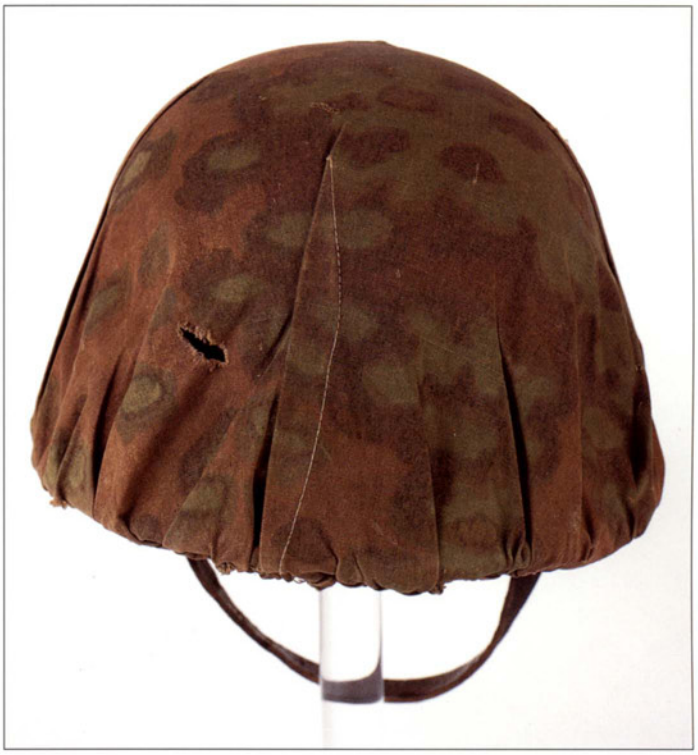


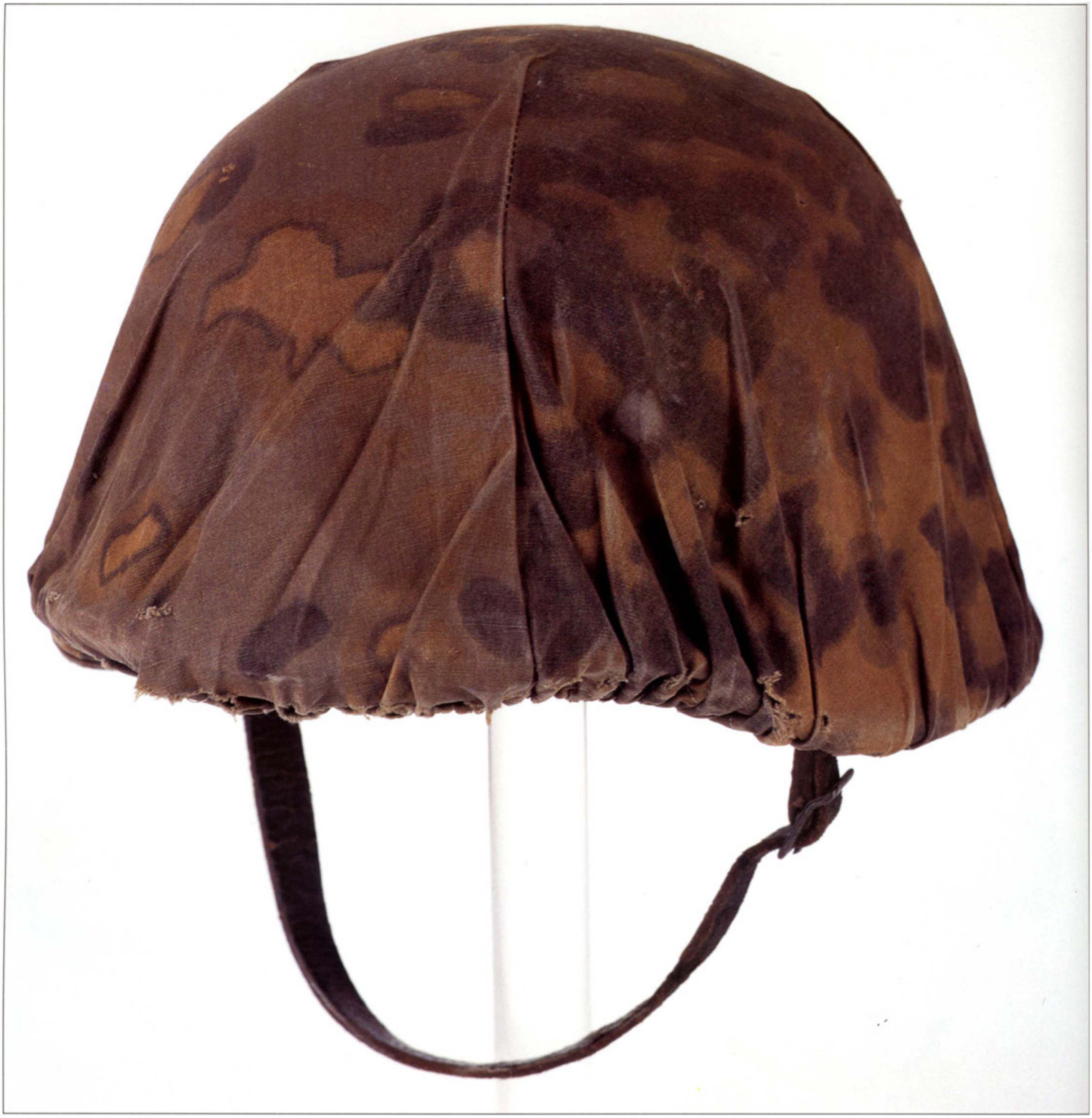
Unusual, non-regulation, SS reversible drawstring cover. Found after the Battle for La Gleize, Ardennes, Belgium in December 1944 (Collection of Phillippe Gillain - December 44 Museum, La Gleize, Ardennes, Belgium)

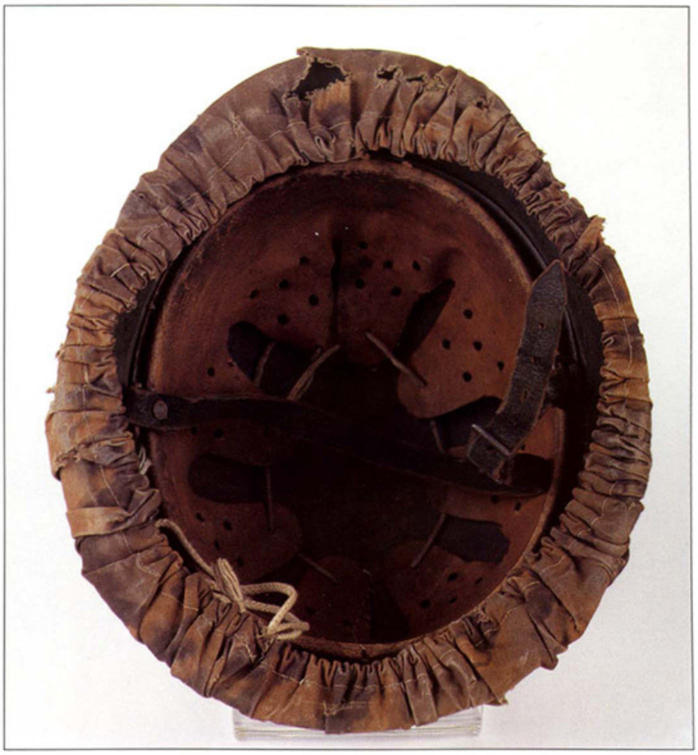


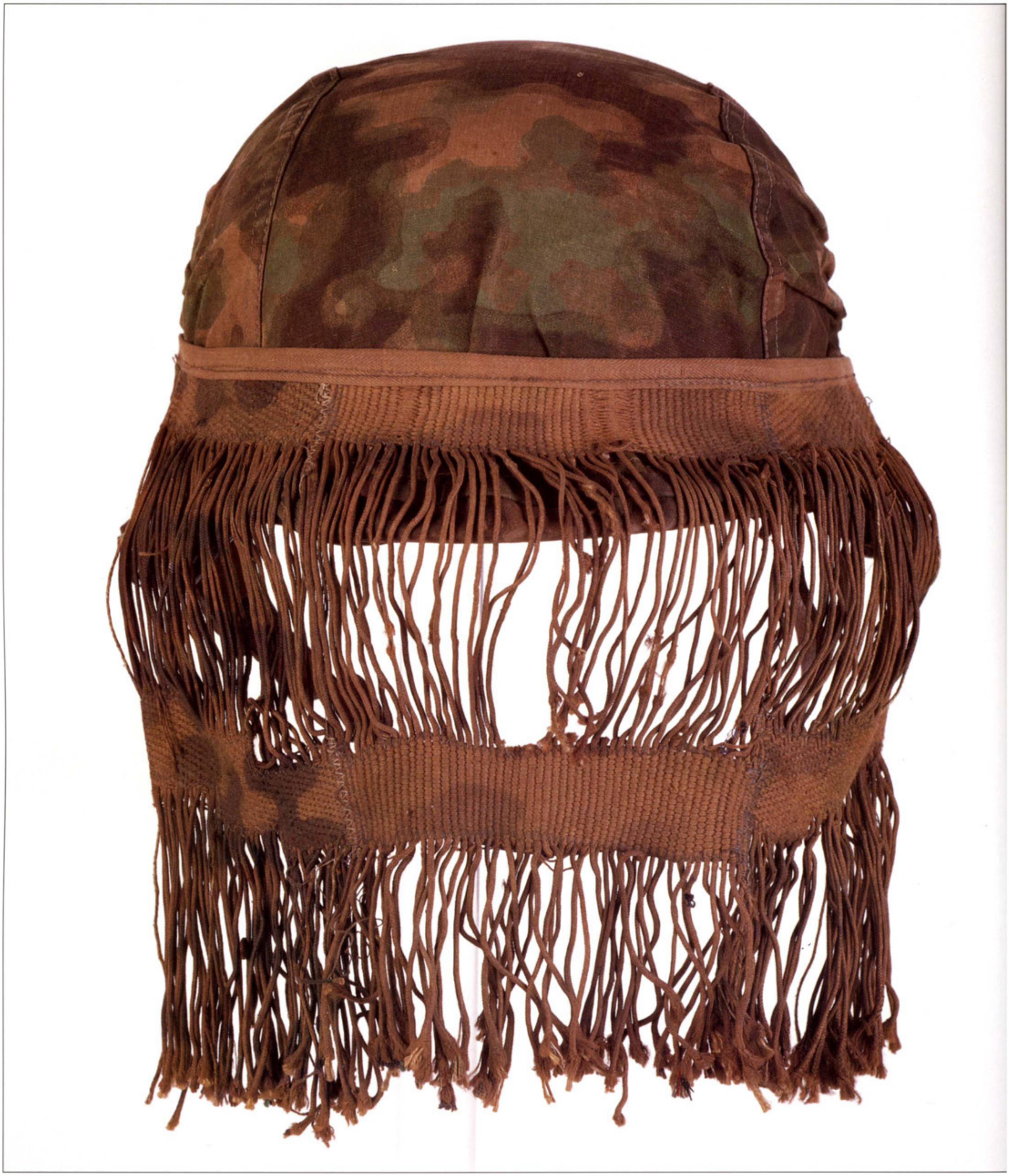




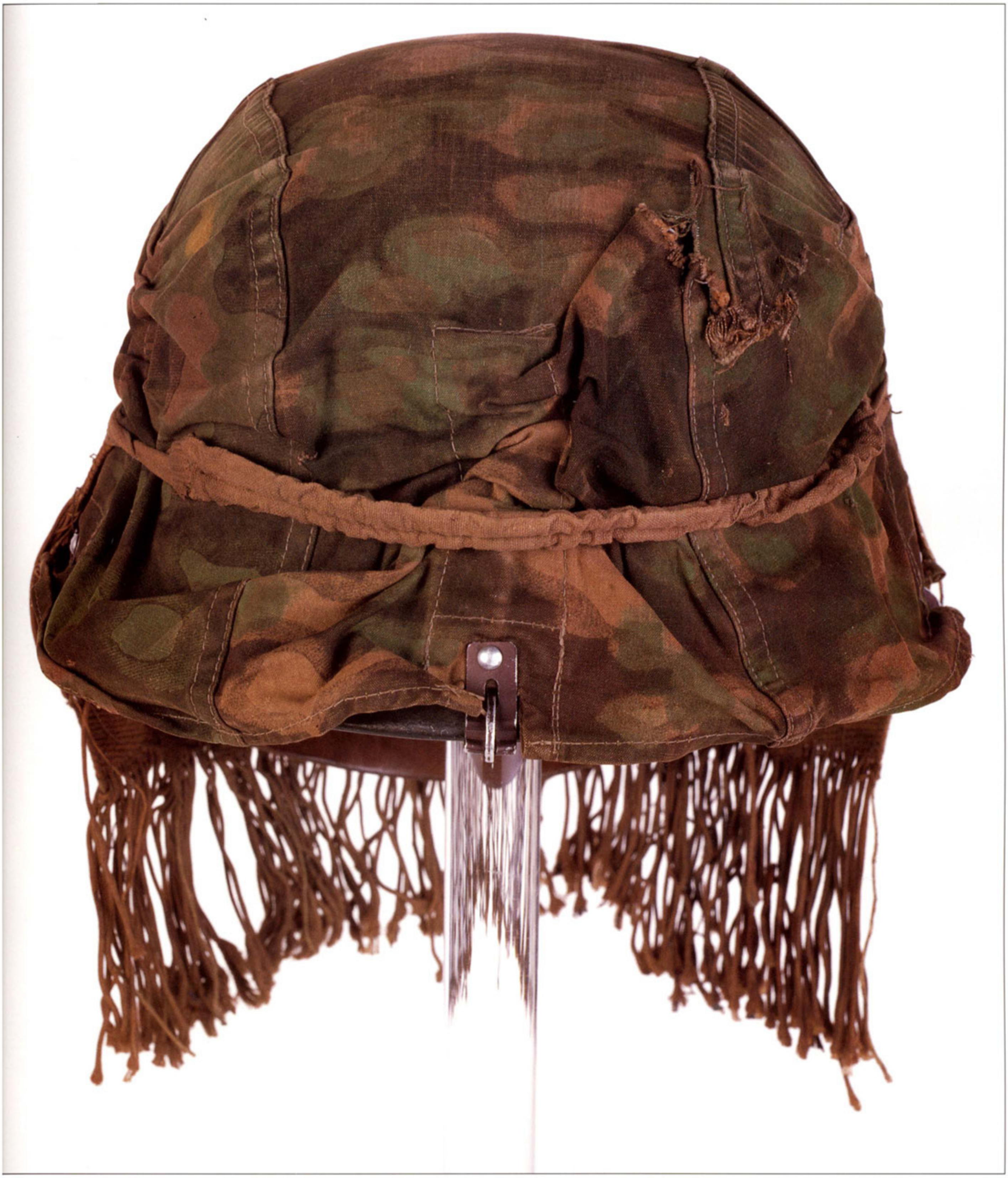


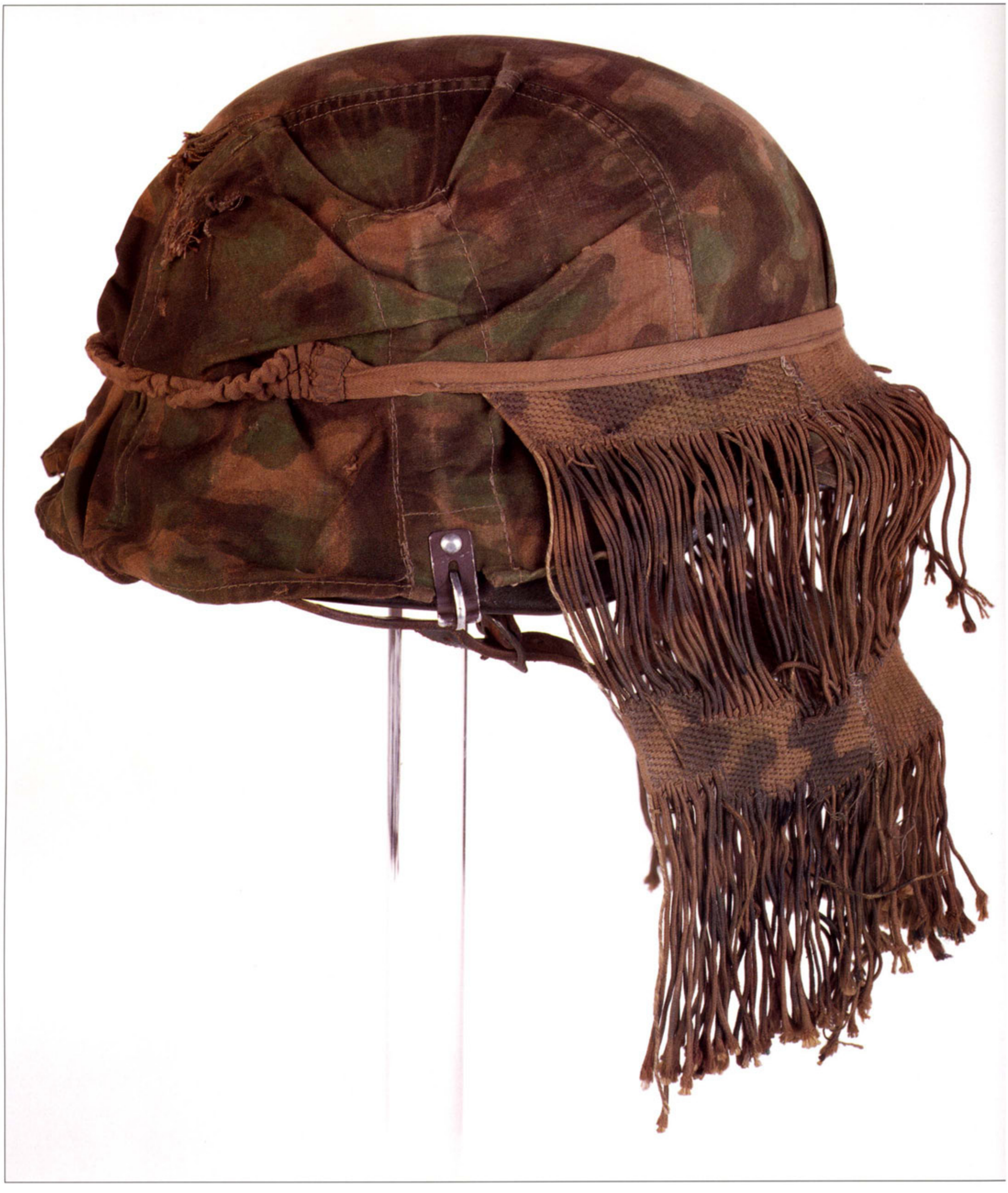


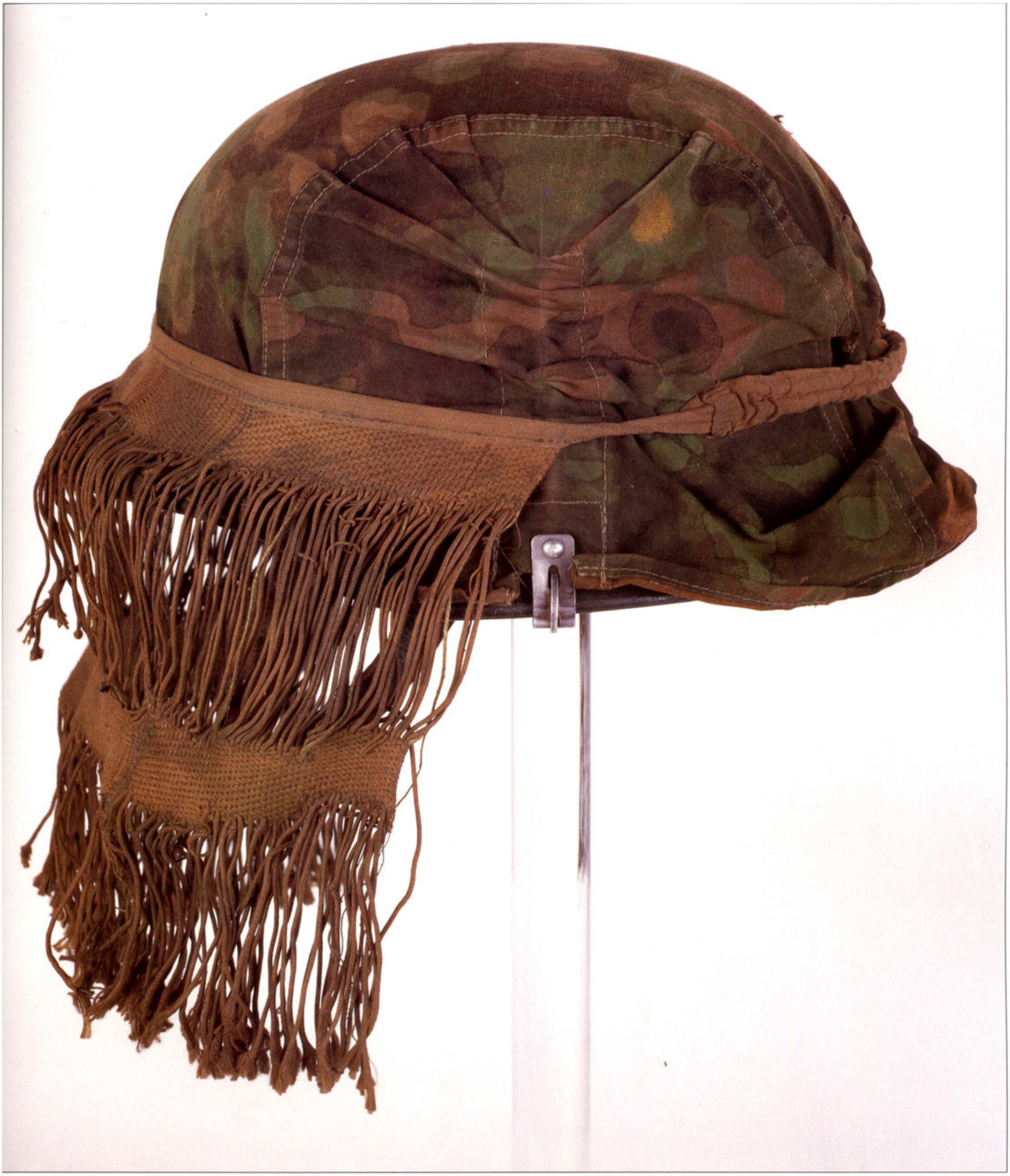


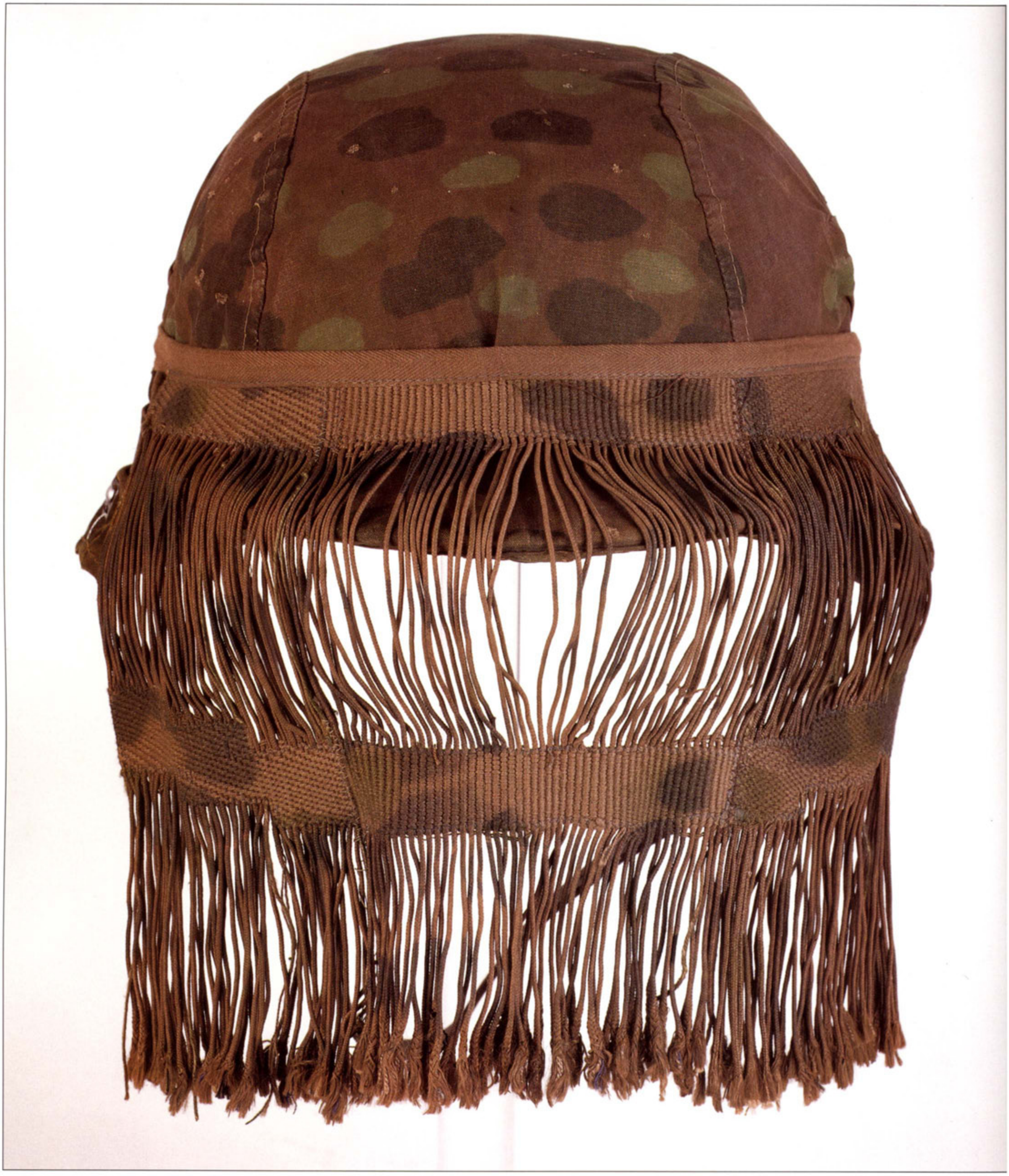


Regulation SS reversible camouflaged face veil without a rear fastening hook and loop, over a first pattern cover. (Collection of Chris Jones)

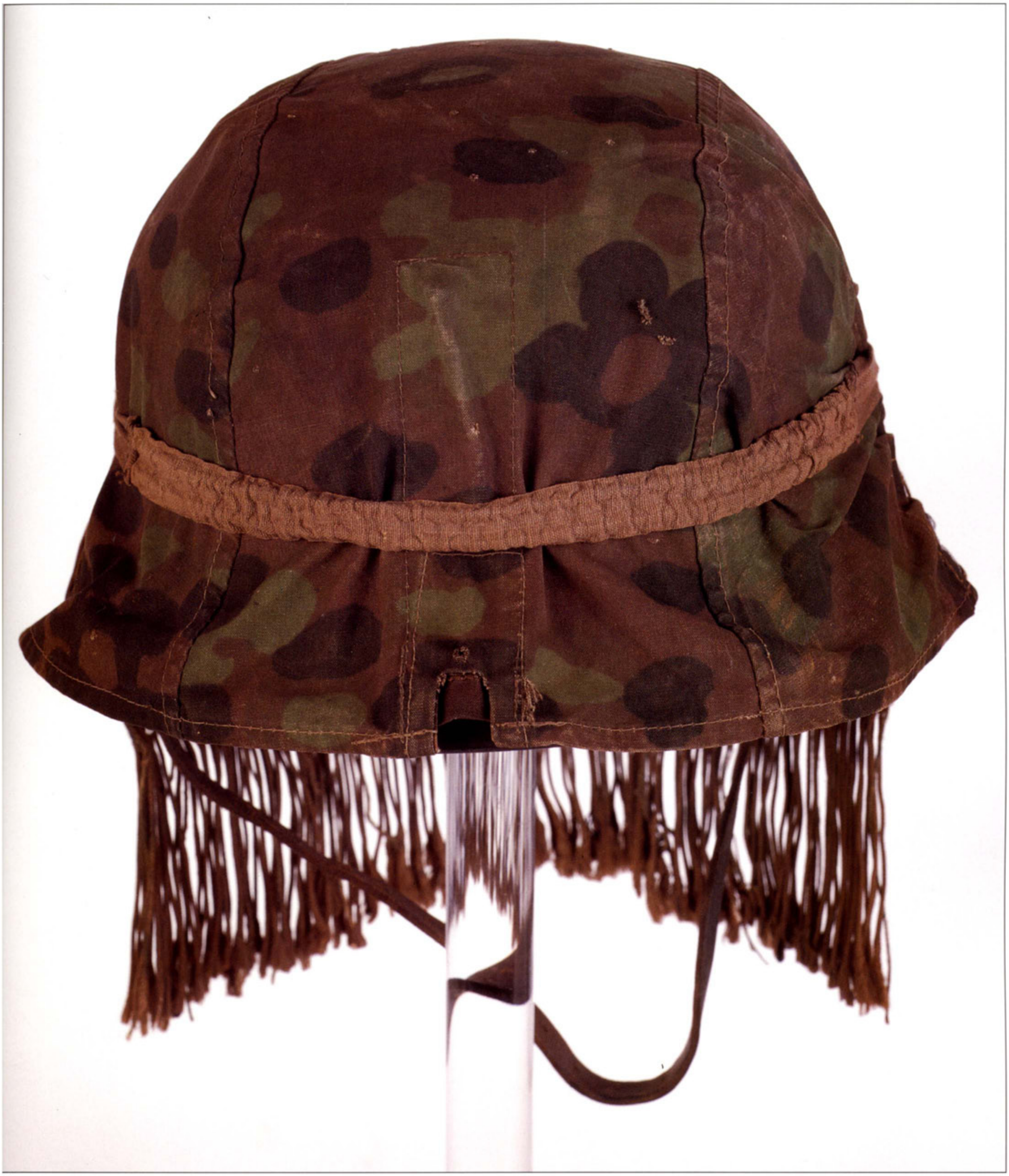


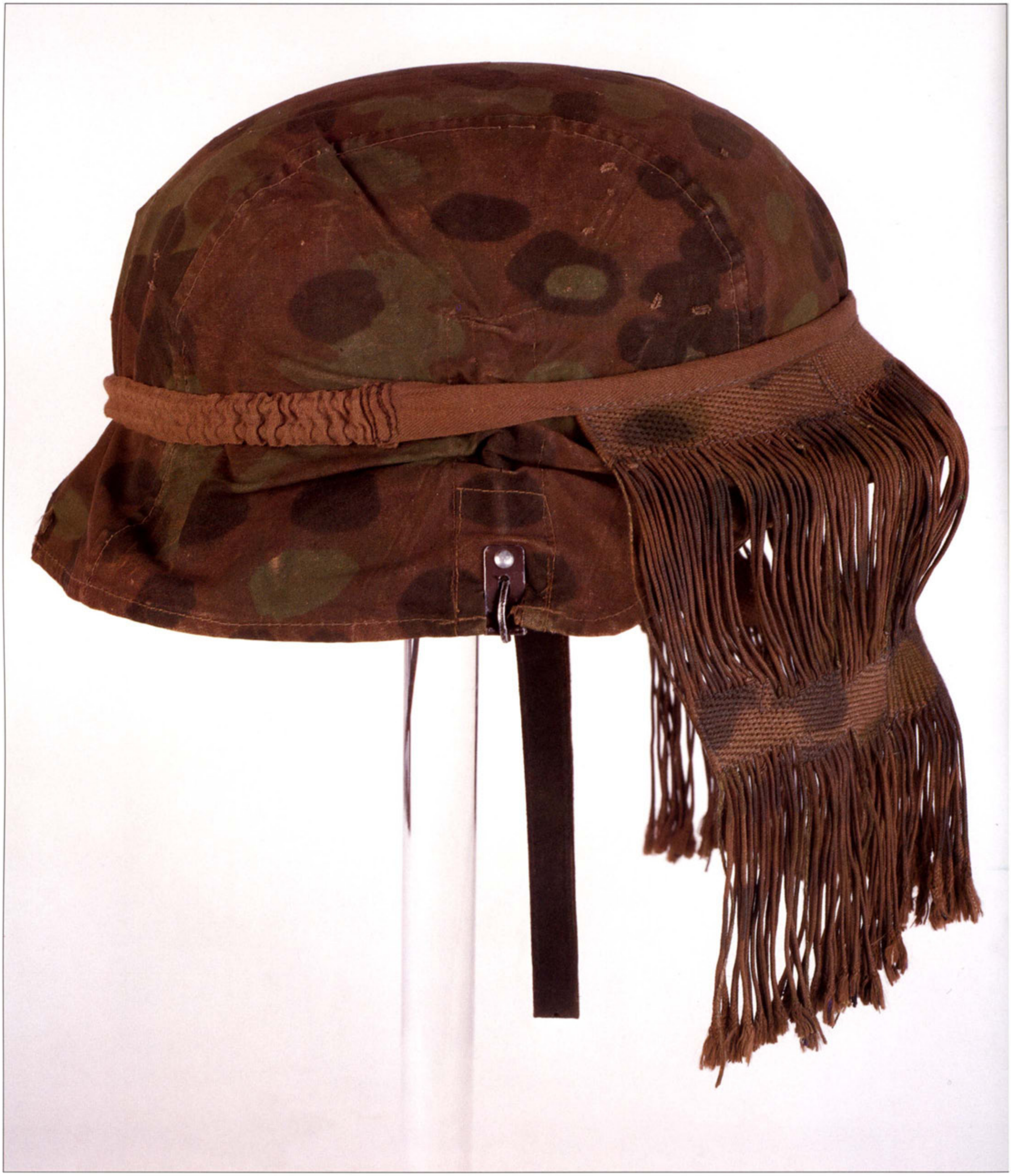


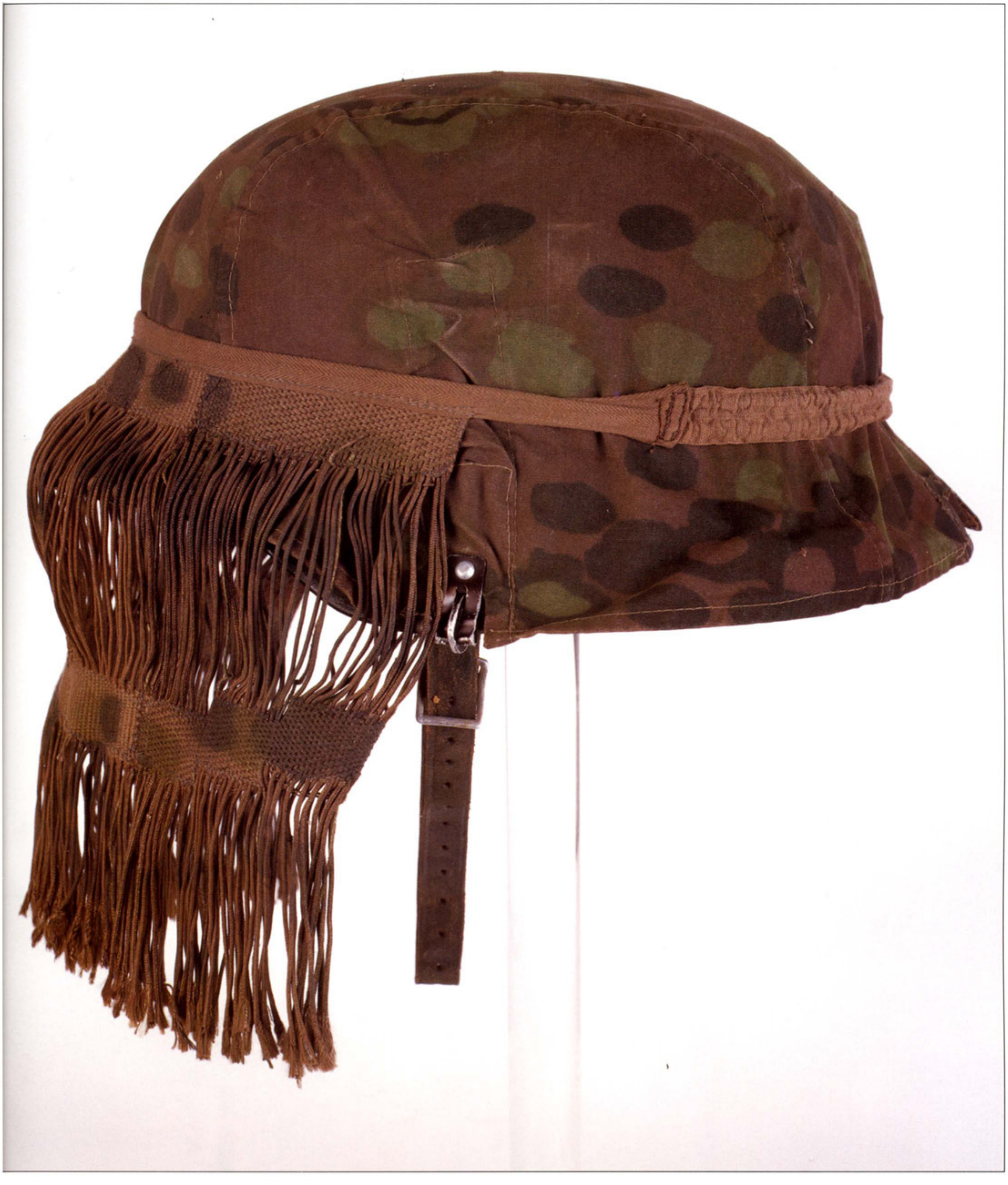


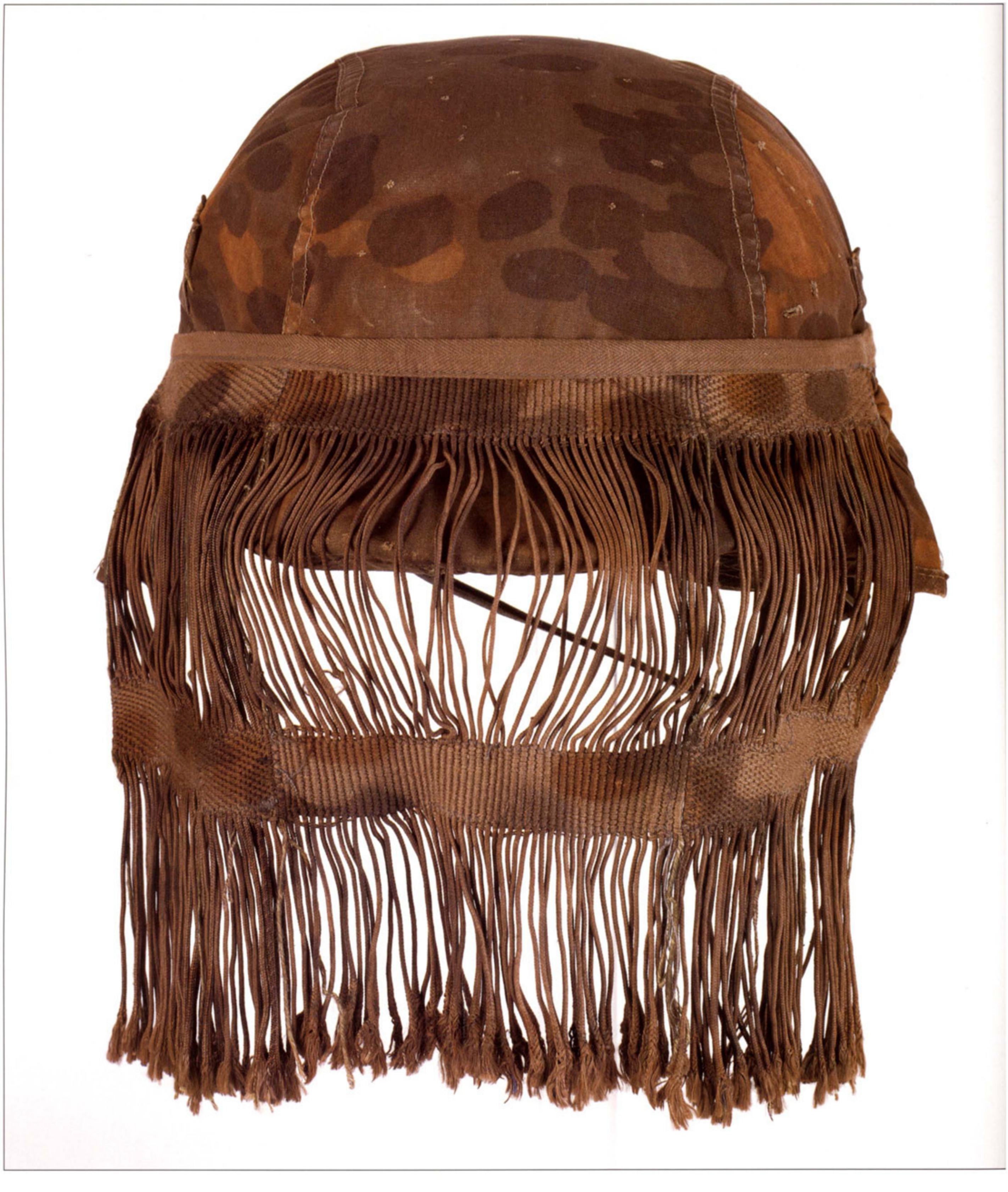


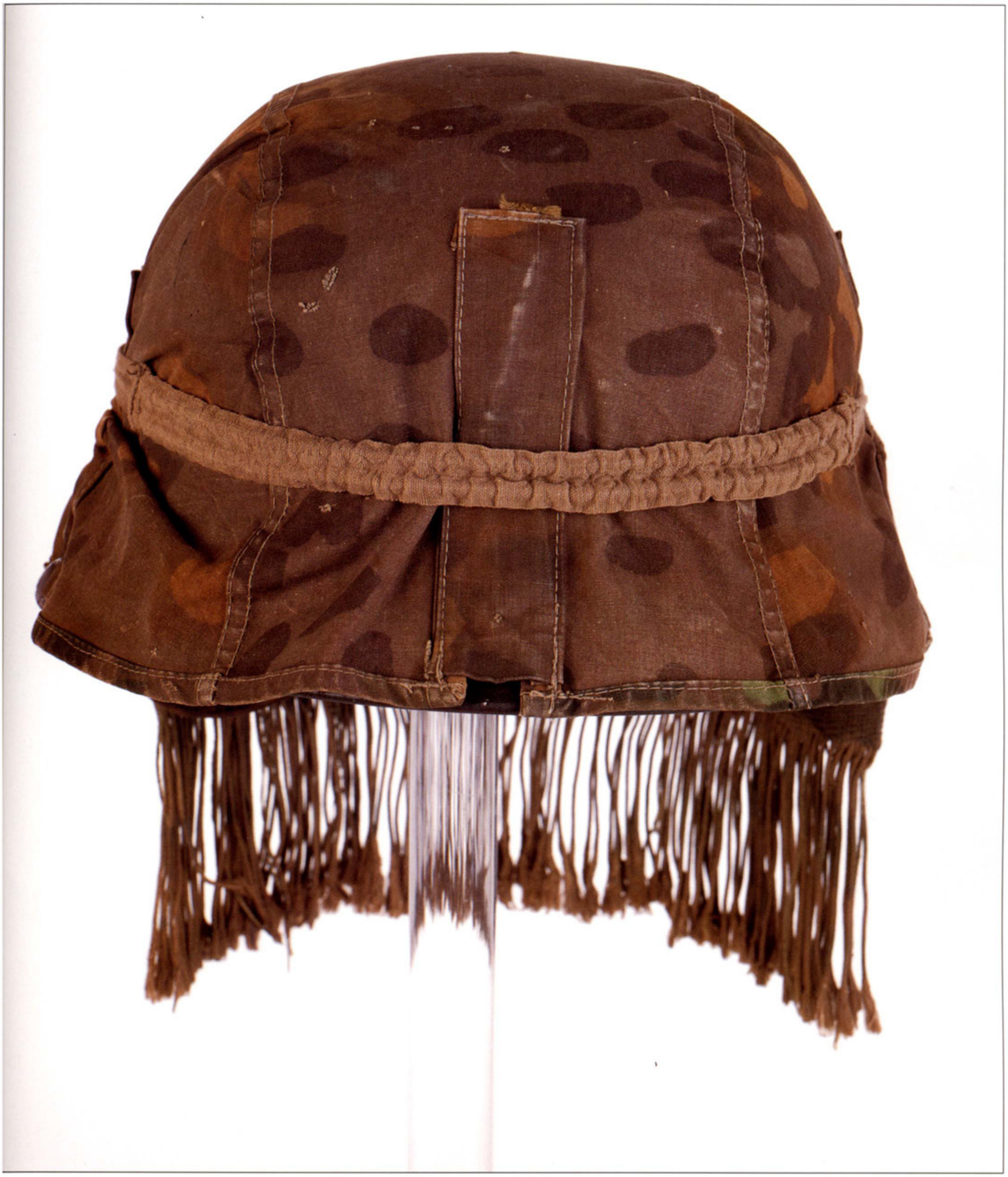
Another regulation, SS reversible camouflaged face veil without fastener, over a first pattern cover. (Collection of Chris Jones)

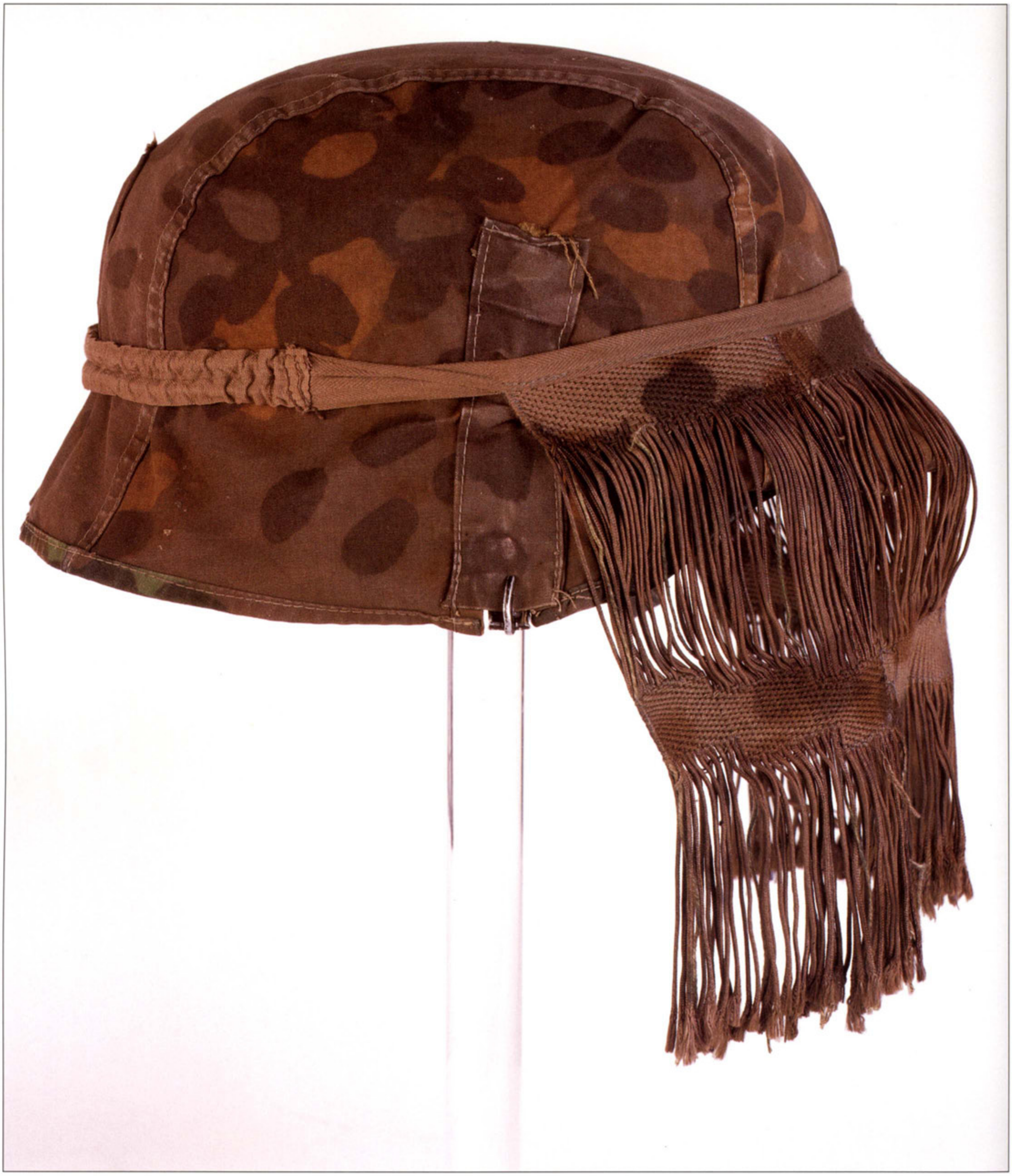


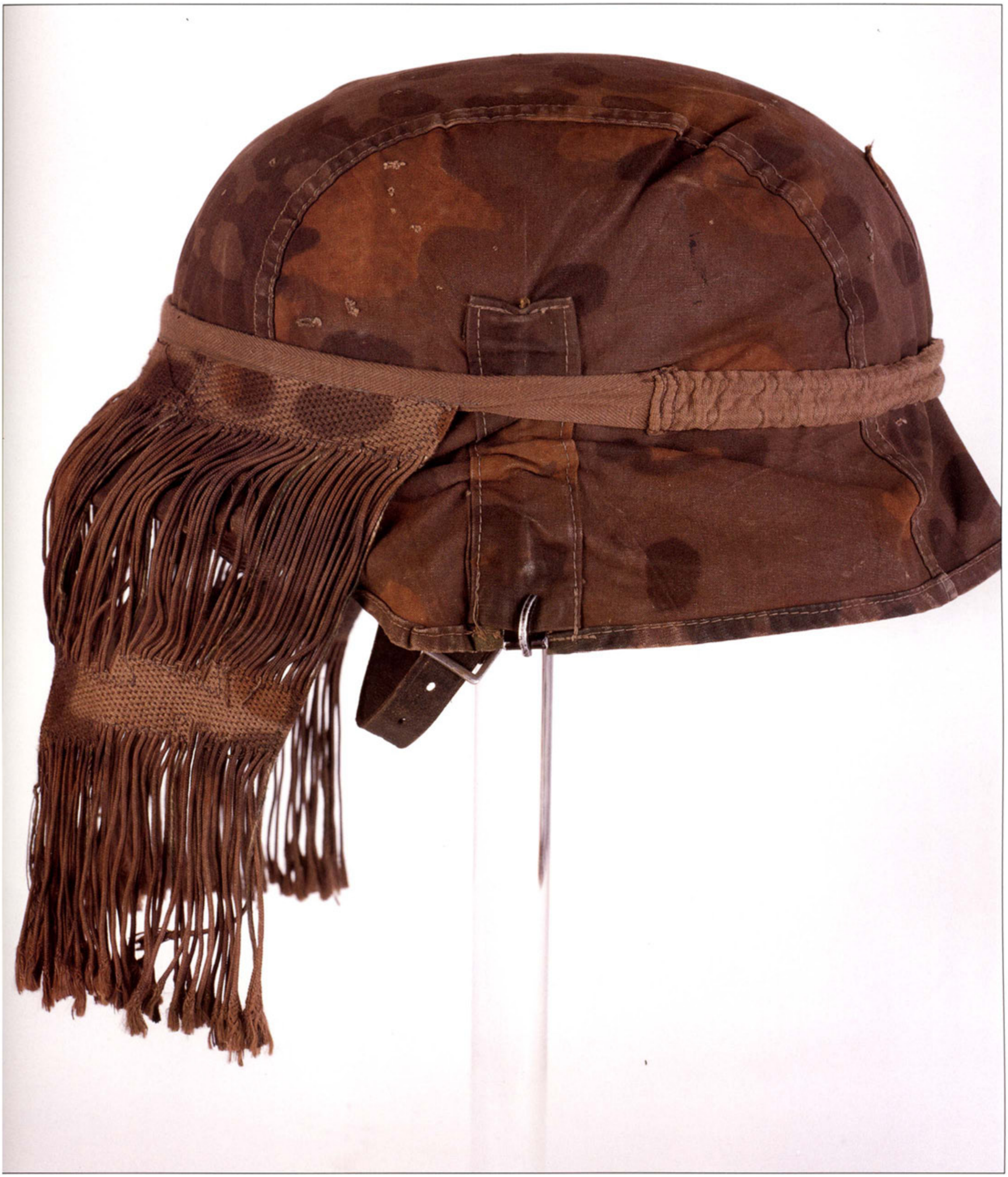


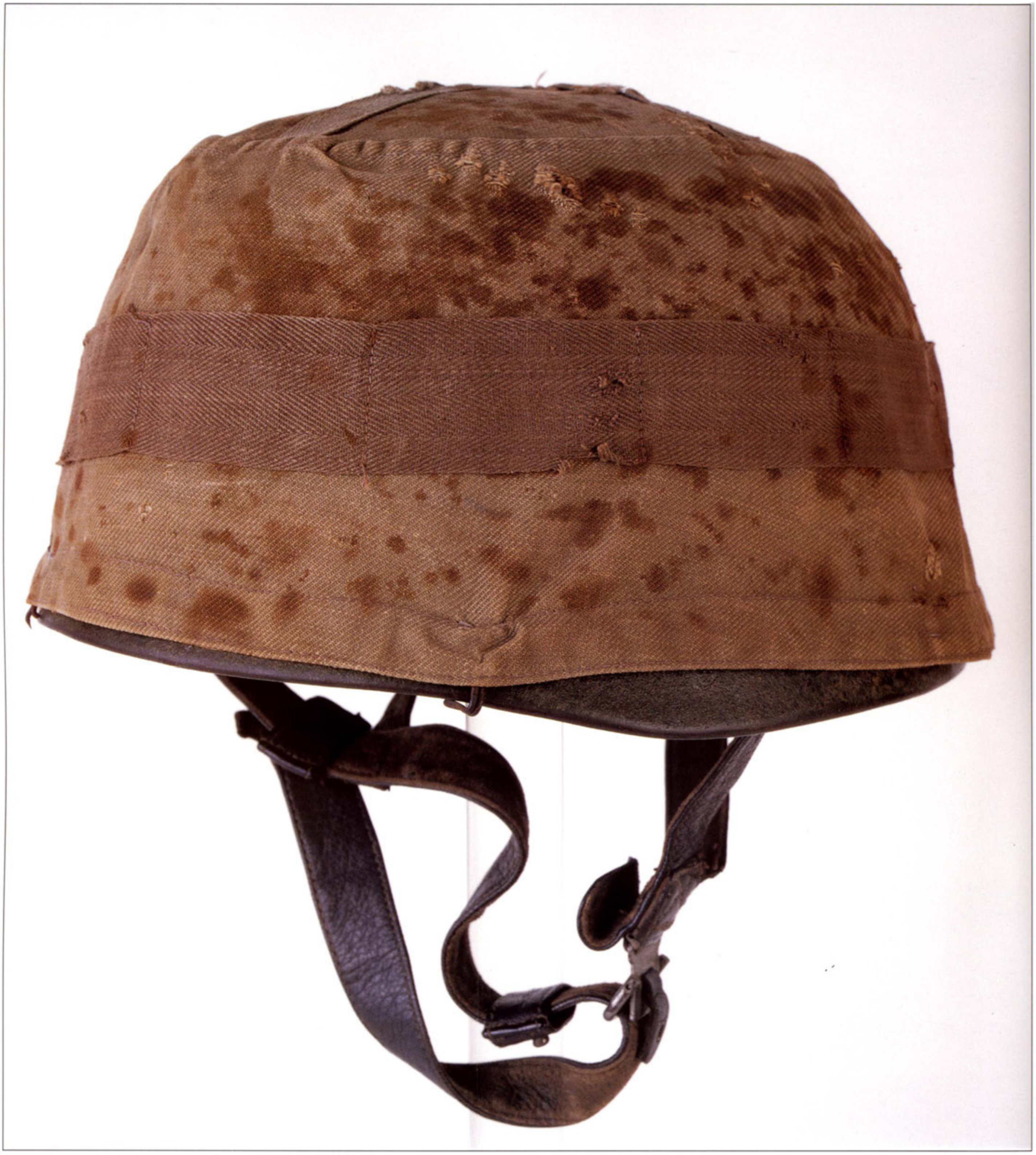




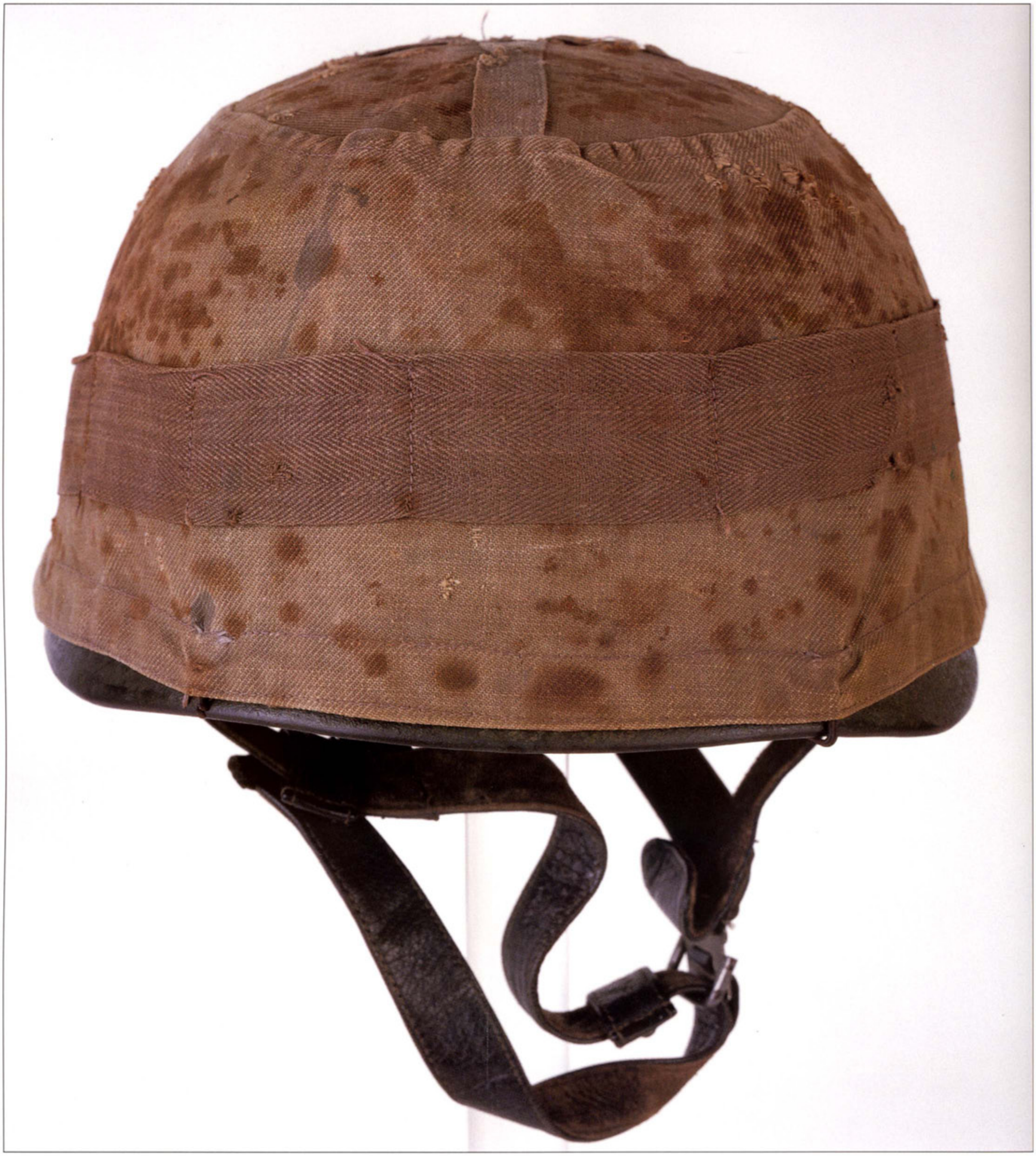


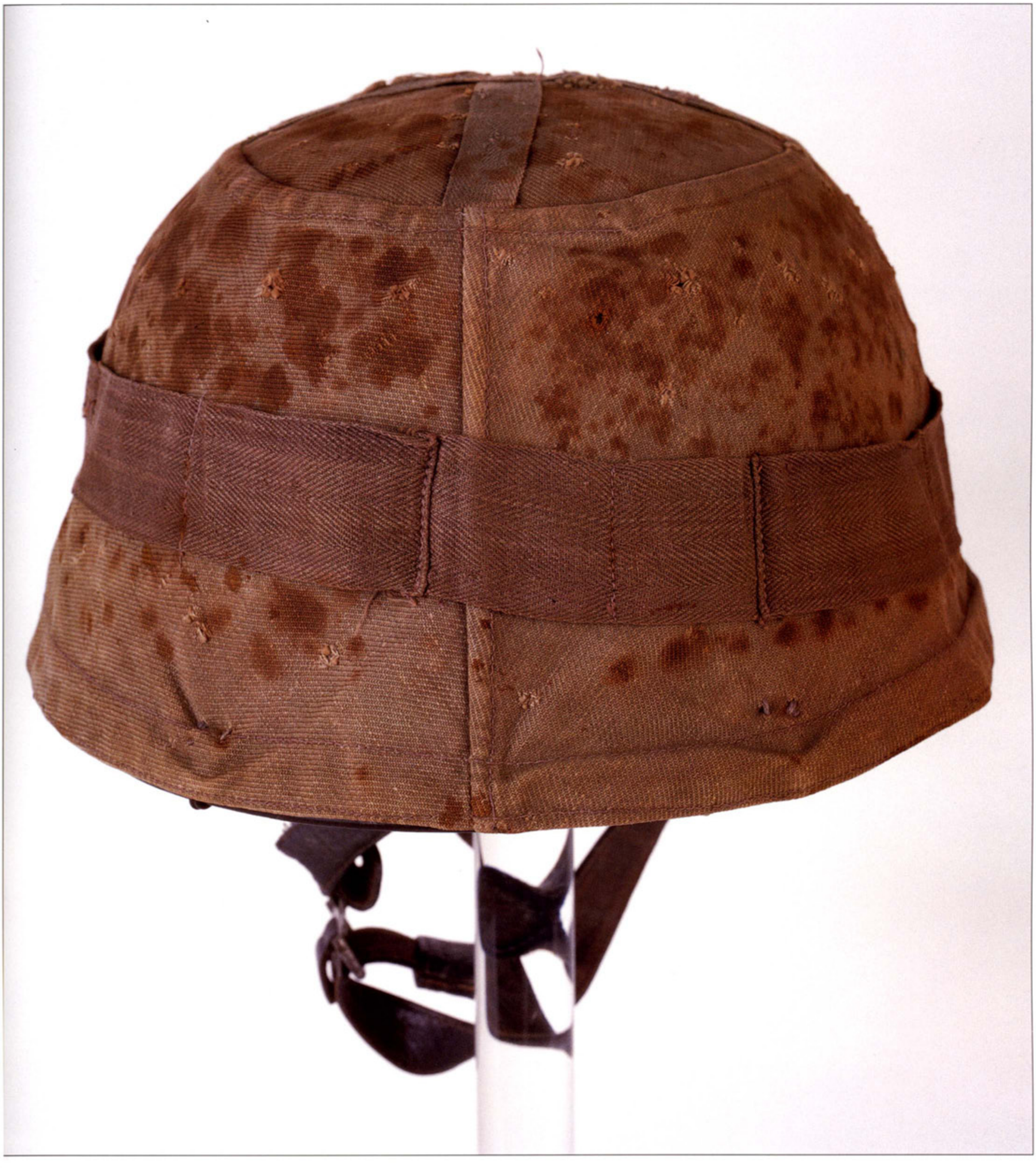


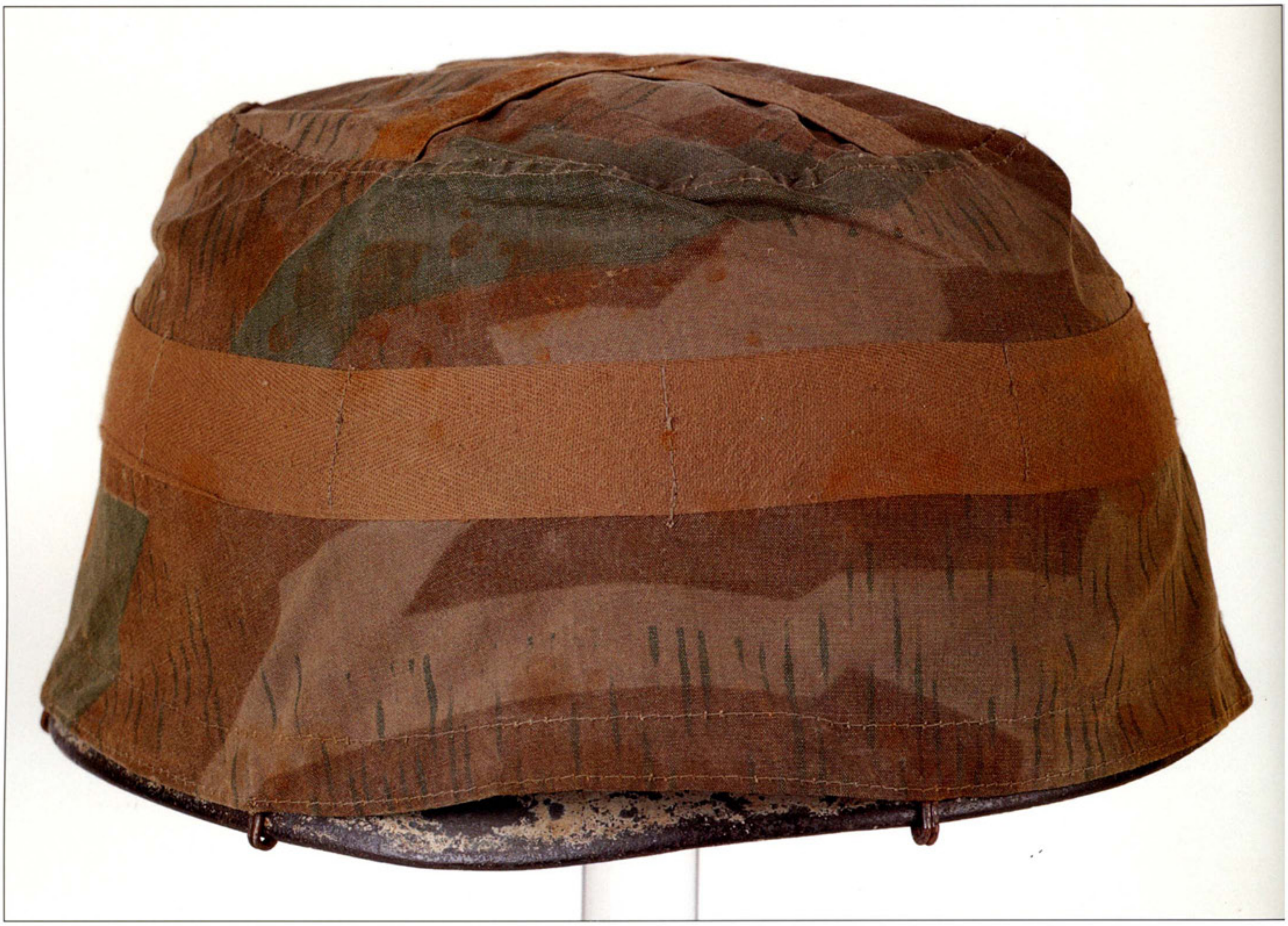




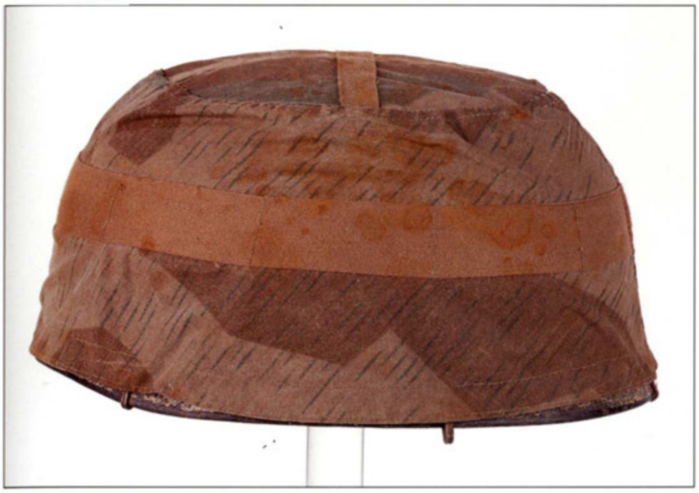
Regulation first pattern, olive green clip-on cover for the M38 helmet. (Collection of John Burnett)

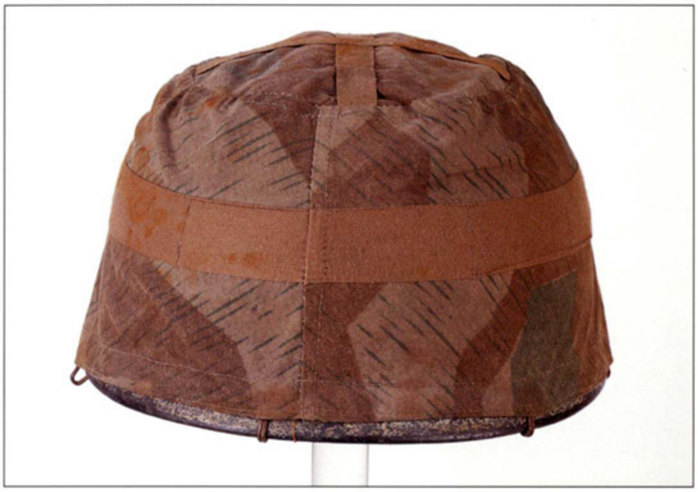


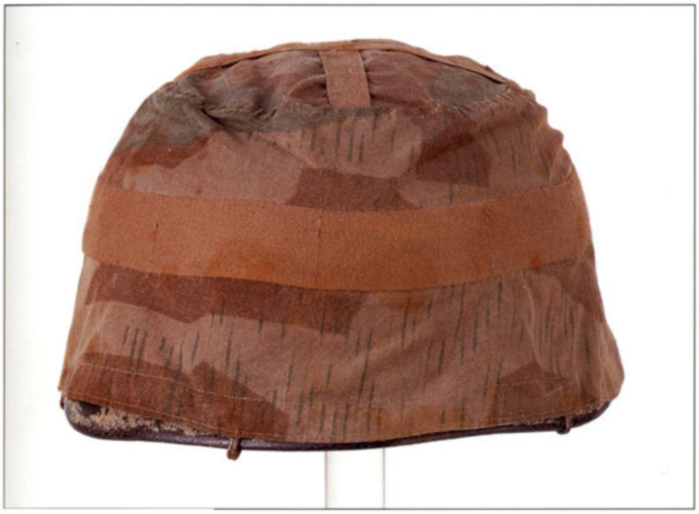


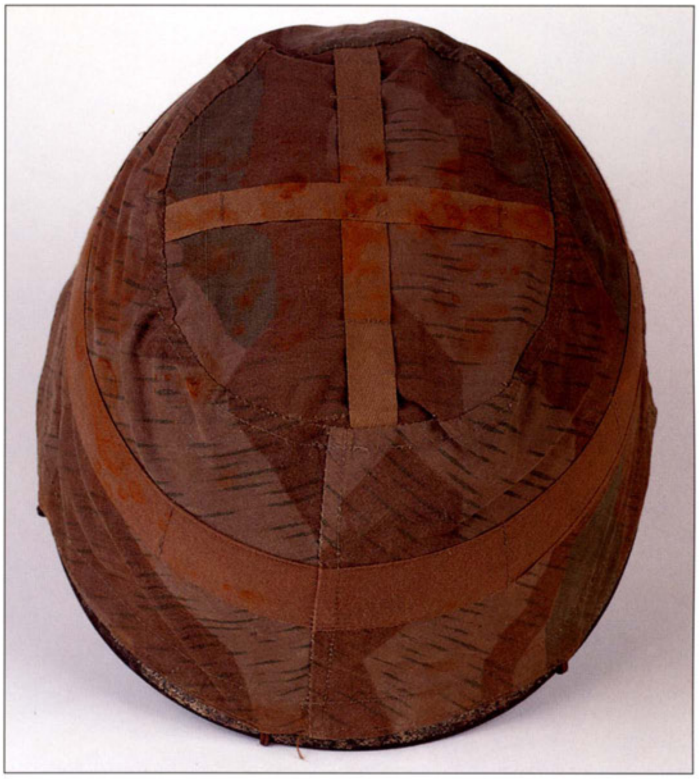


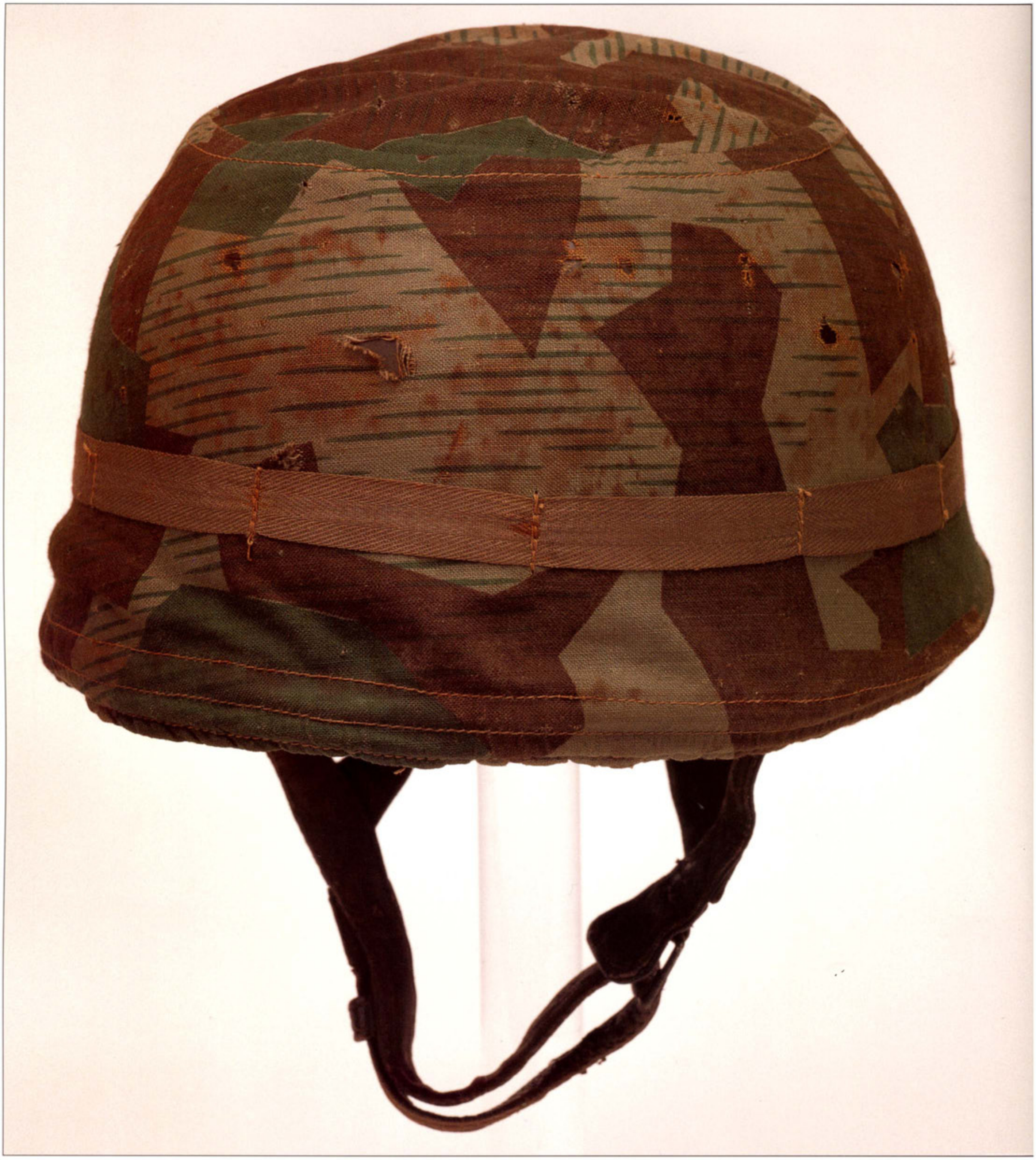
Regulation second pattern splinter camouflage, clip-on cover for the M38 helmet. (Collection of Phillippe Gillain - December 44 Museum, La Gleize, Ardennes, Belgium)



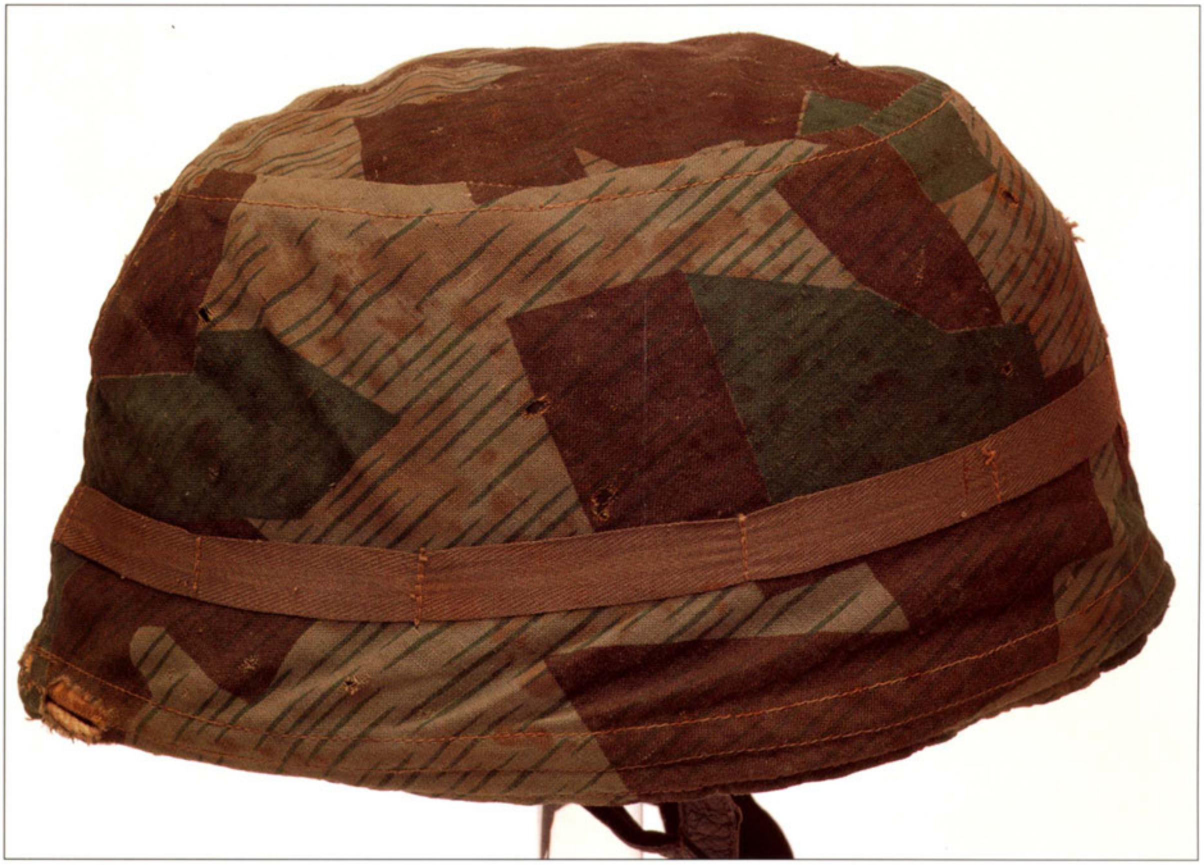


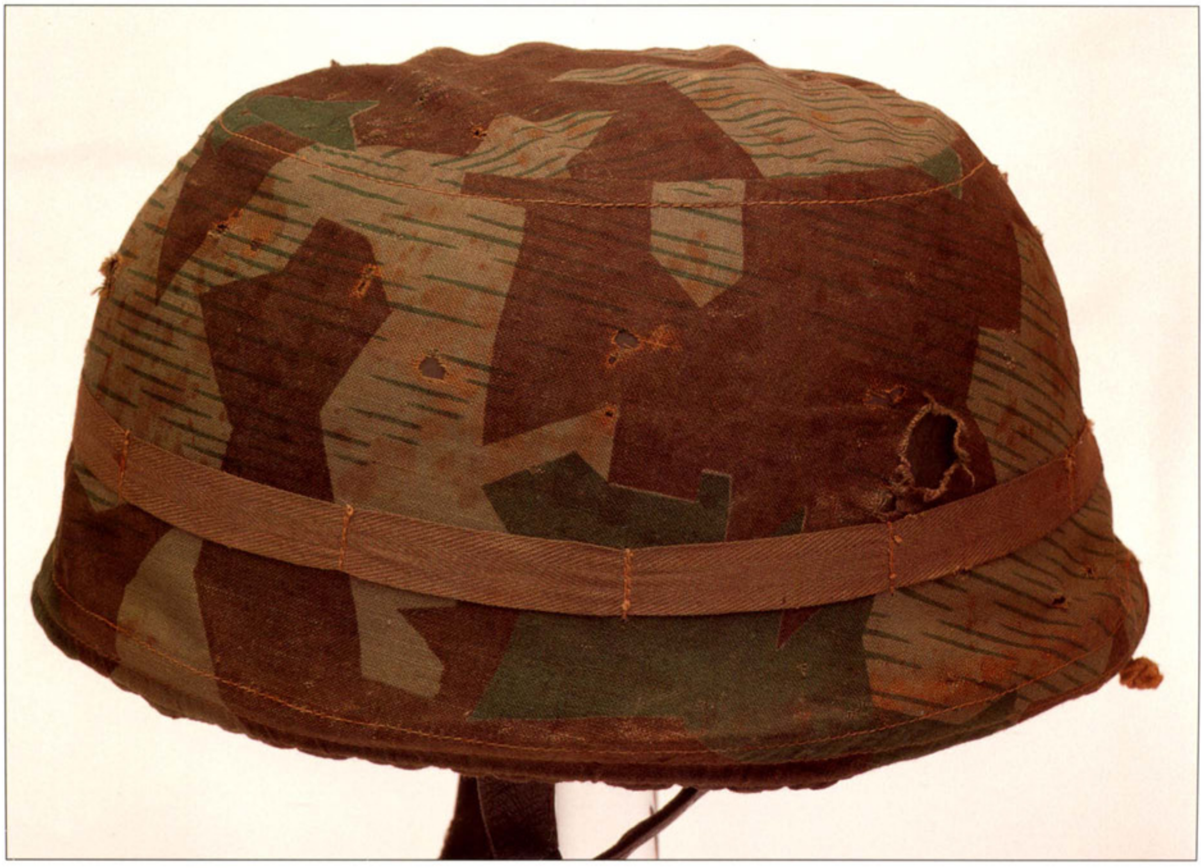


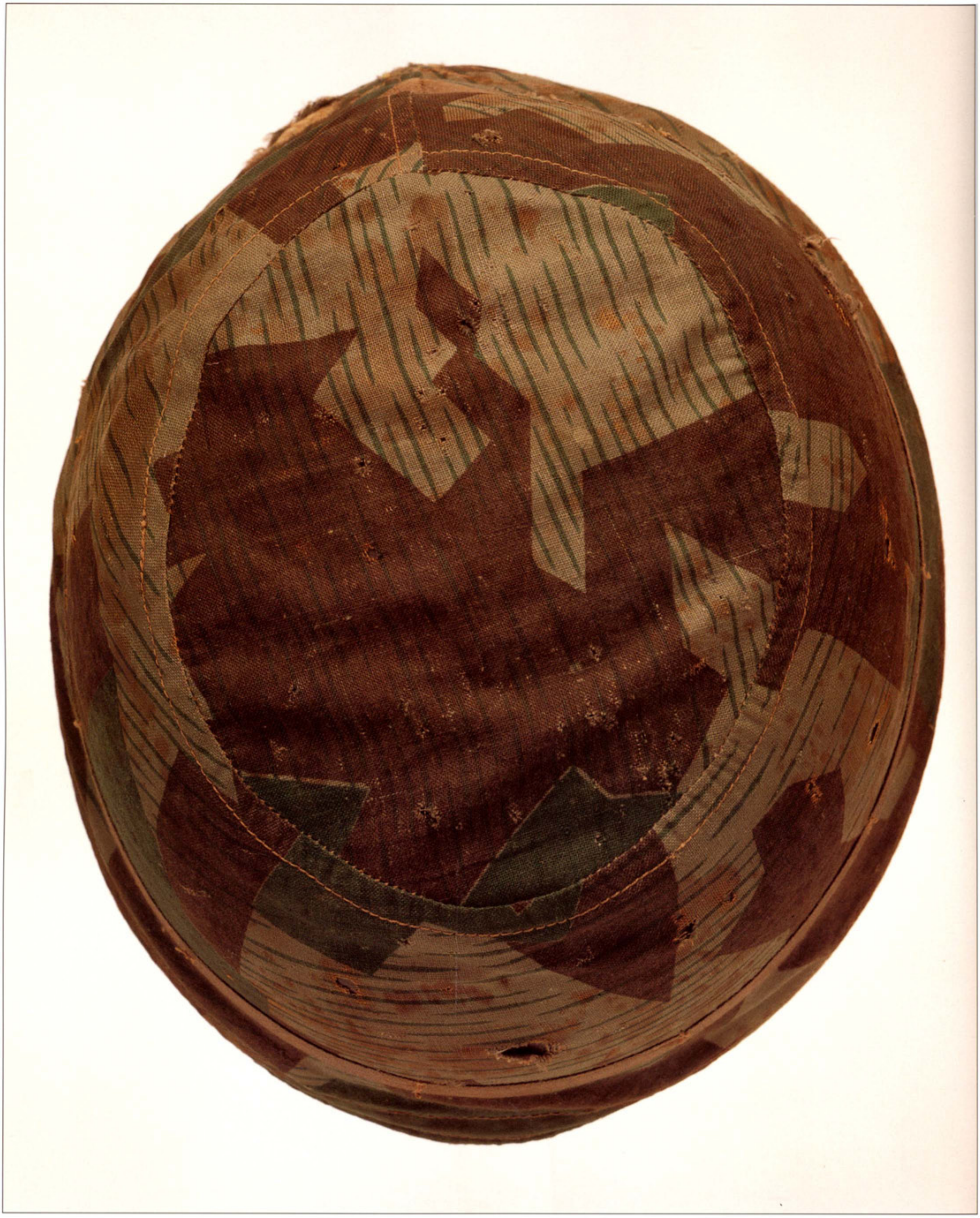


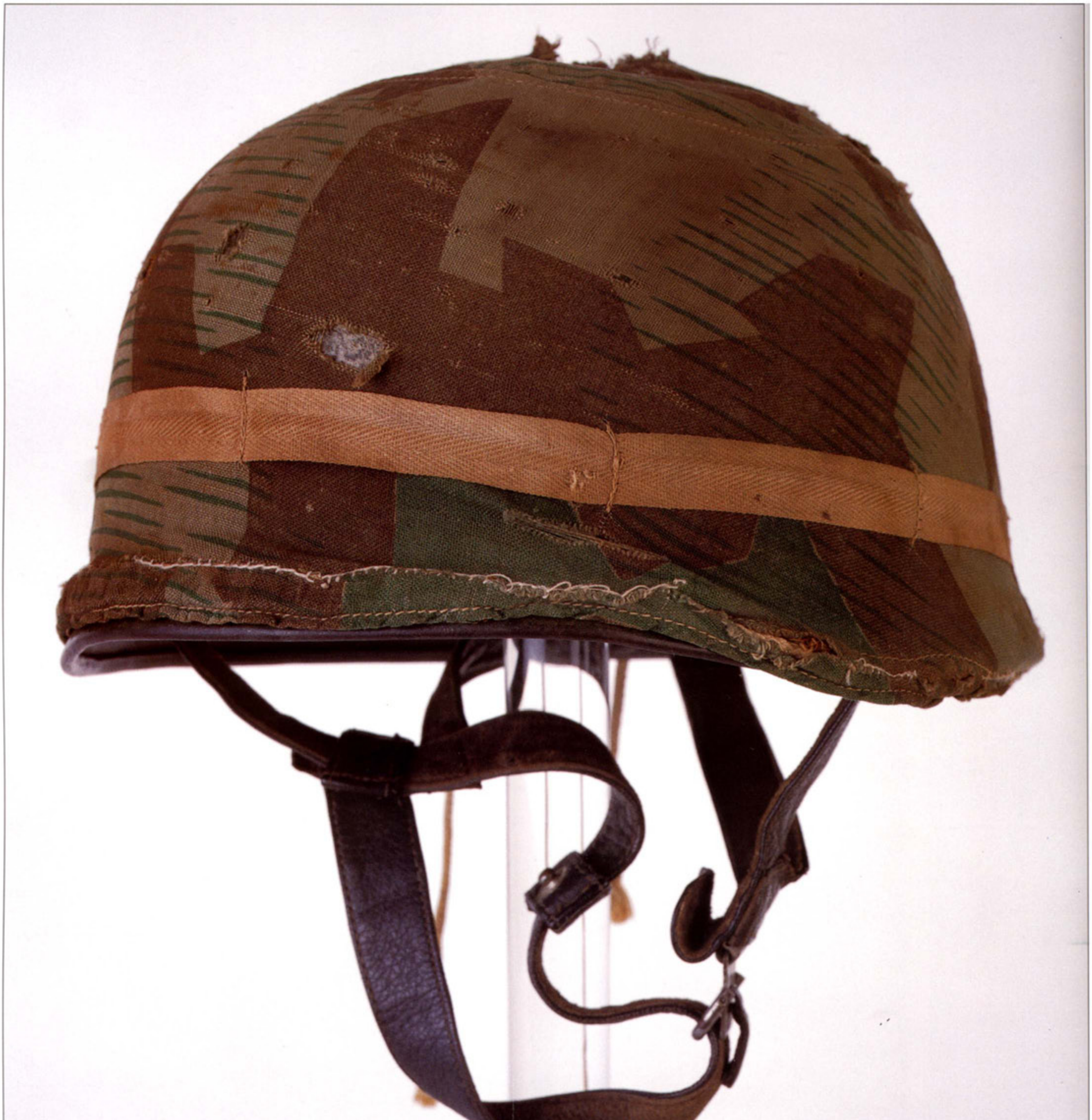


Regulation second pattern splinter camouflage drawstring cover for the M38 helmet. (Collection of Brian Maederer - Military Collectibles)

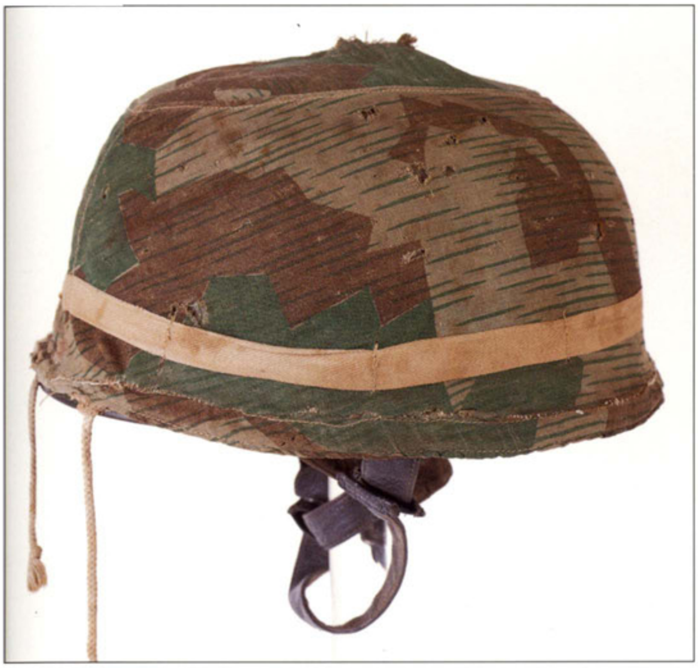


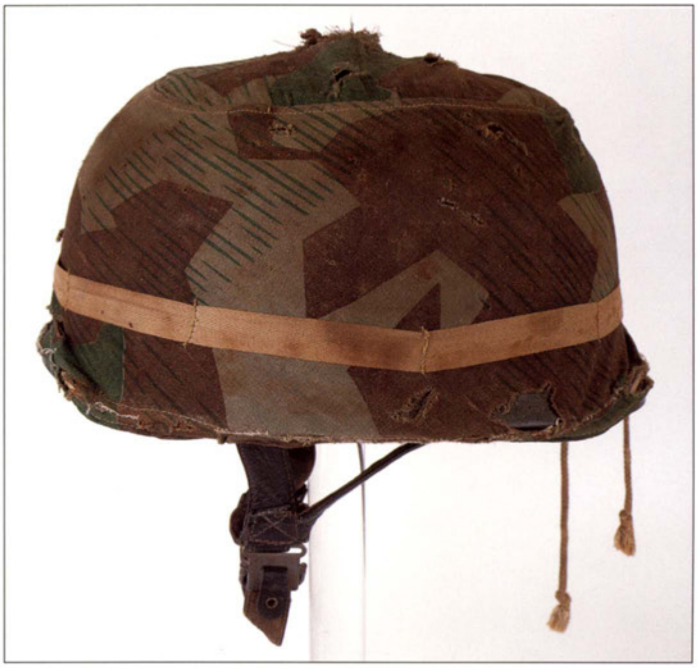


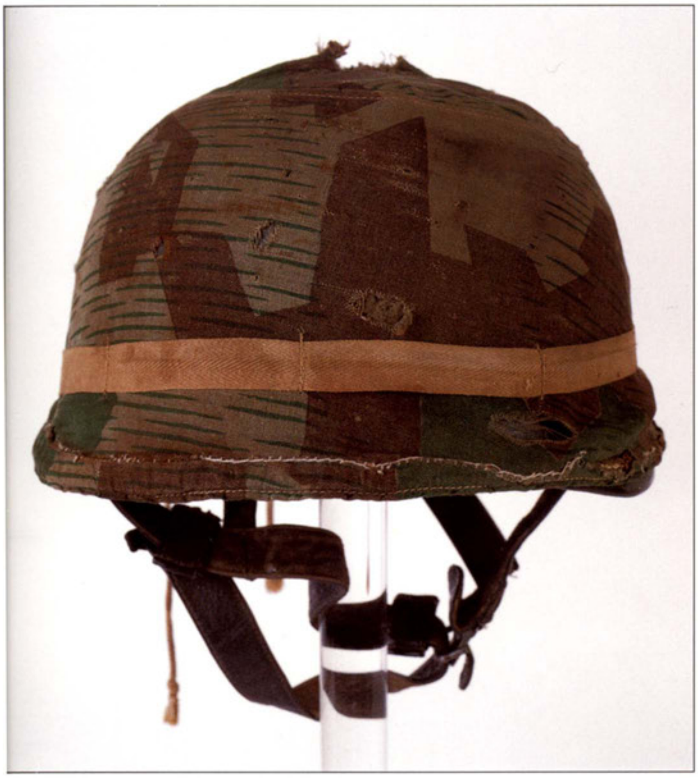


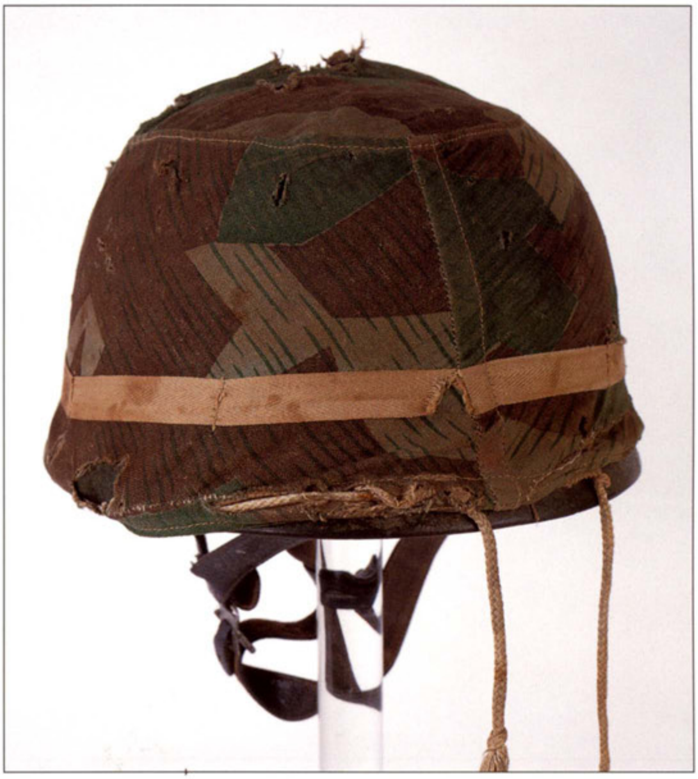


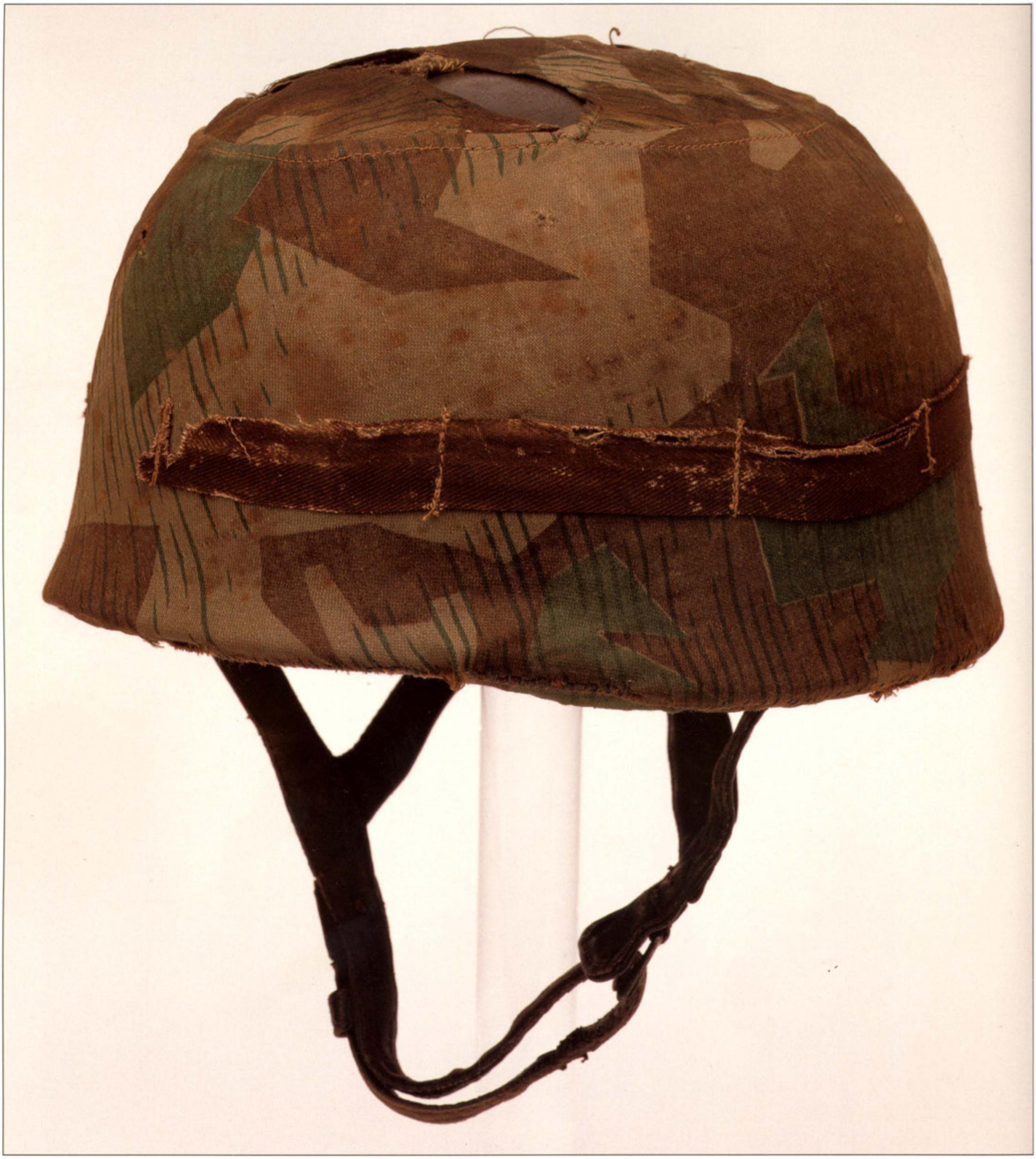
Another example of a regulation second pattern, splinter camouflage drawstring cover for the M38.
(Collection of Brian Maederer - Military Collectibles)



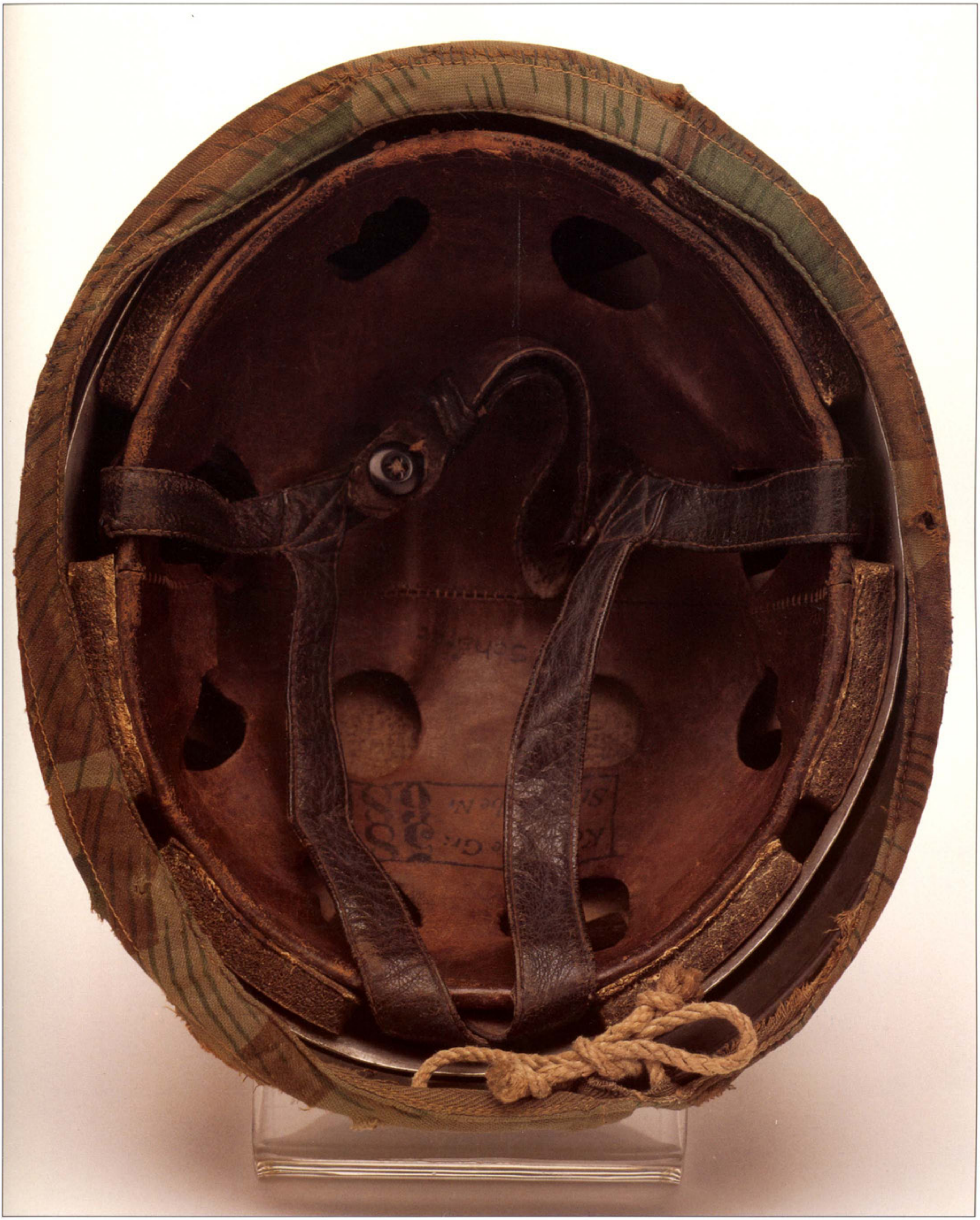


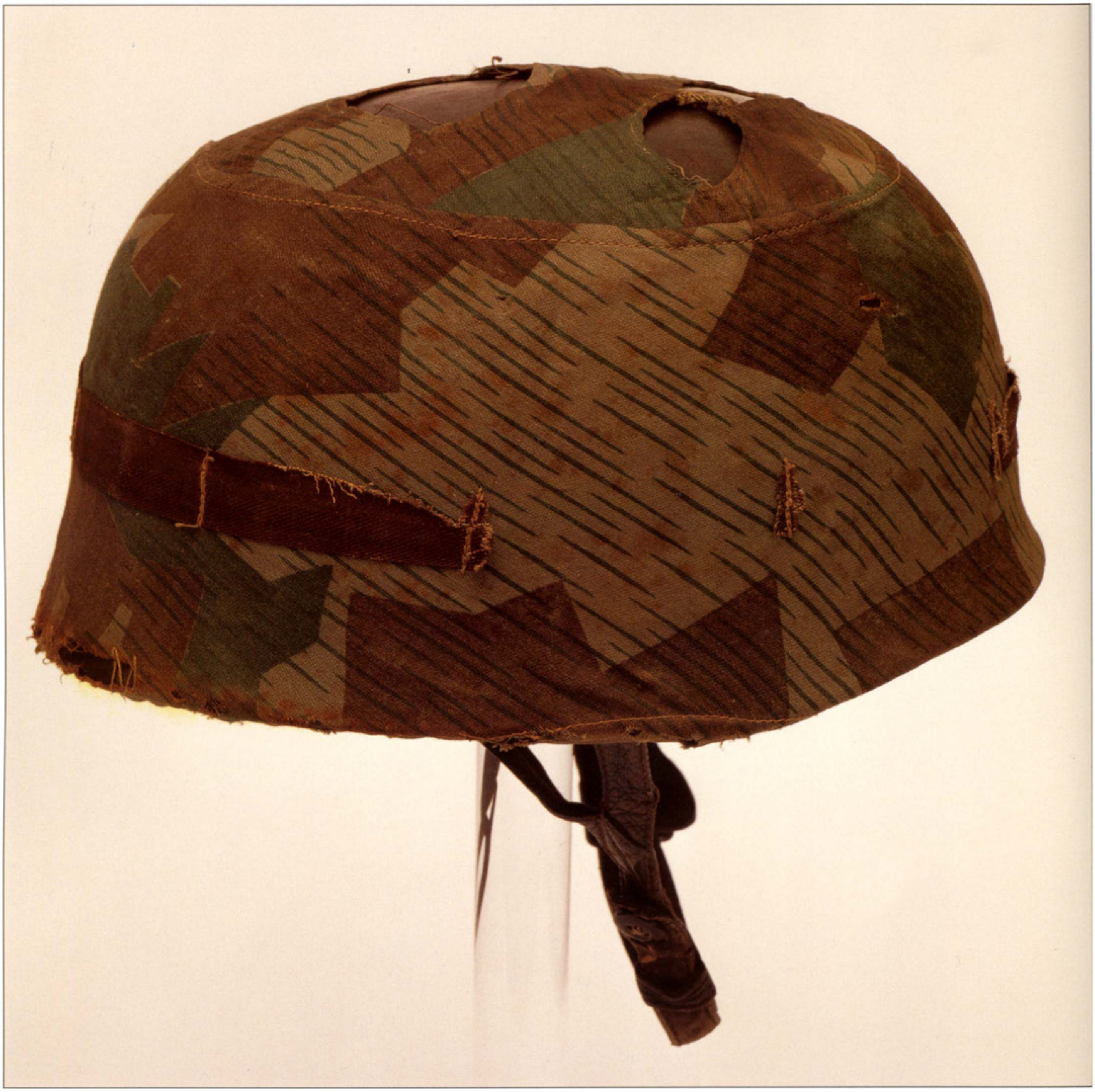


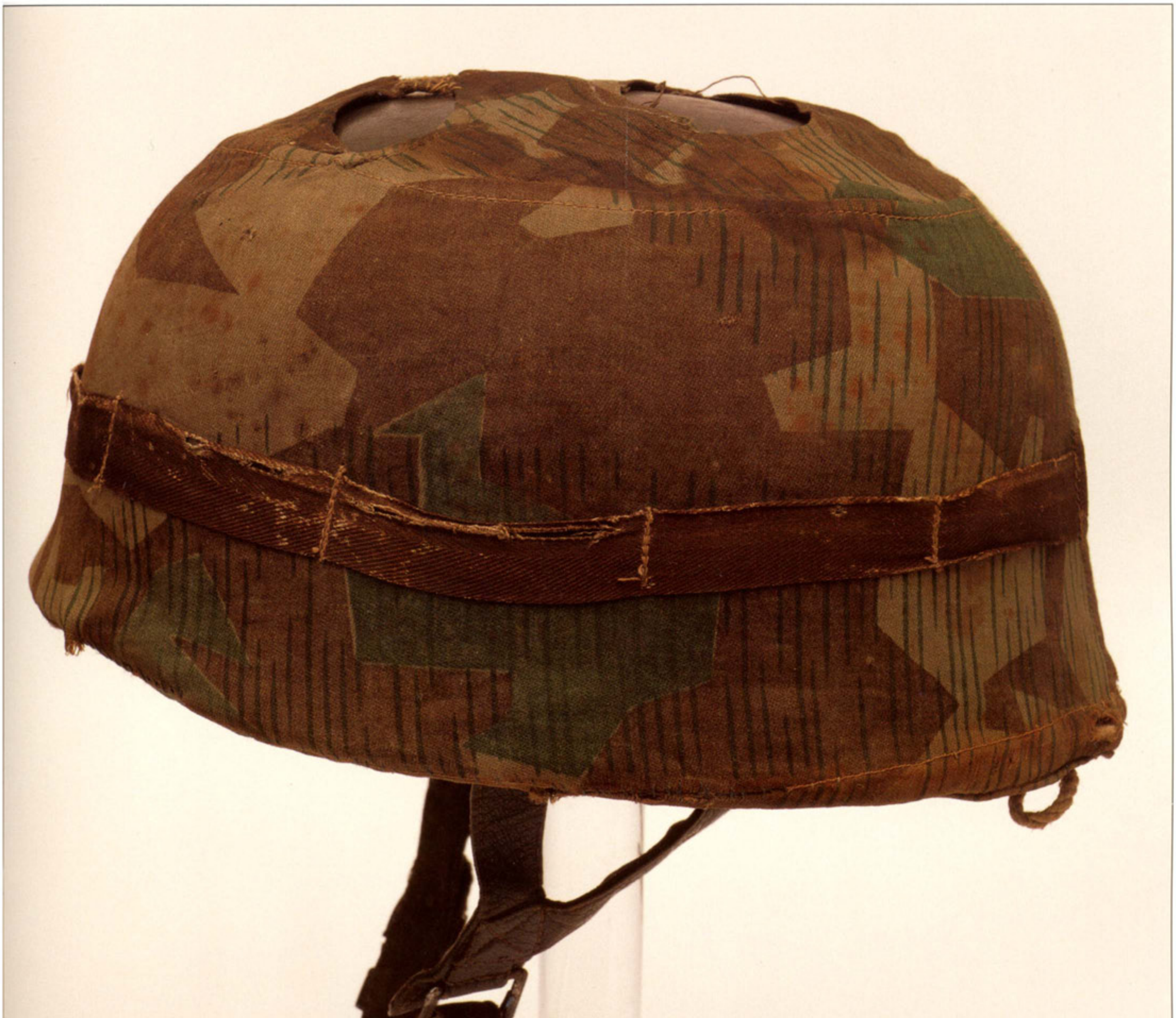


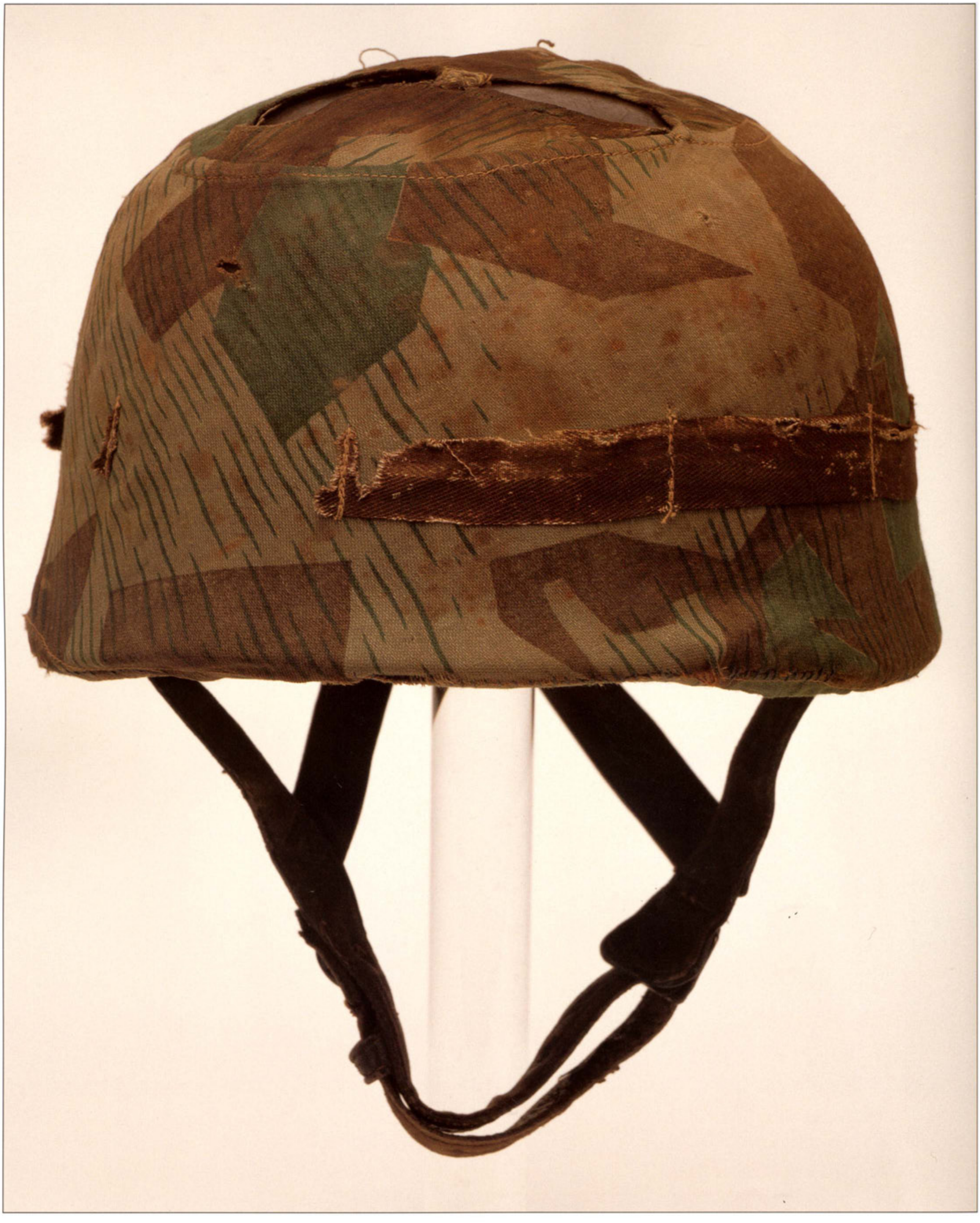


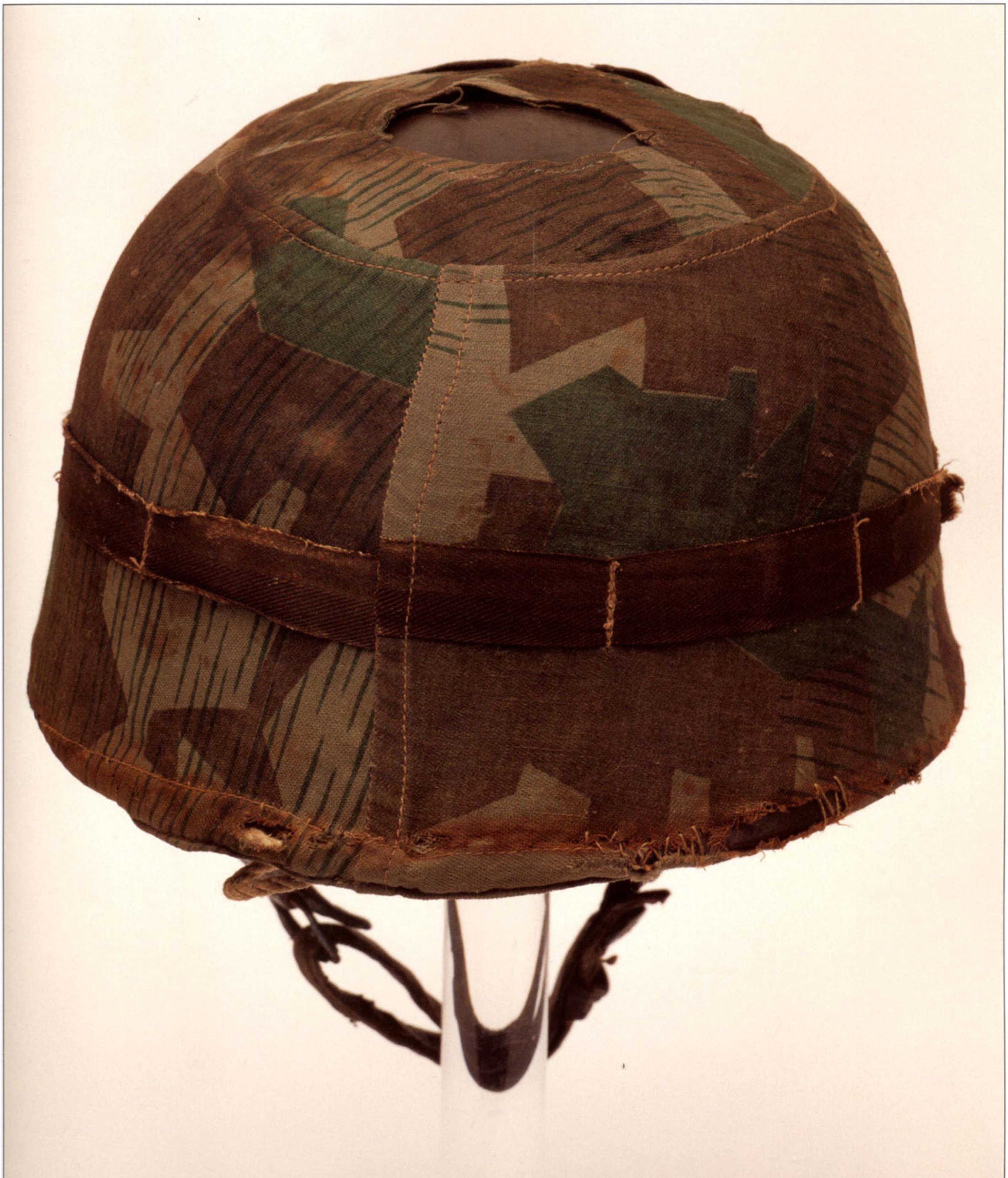
Unusual variation of the second pattern, splinter camouflage drawstring. It has been modified to double as a sniper's mask with the foliage band darkened to aid the camouflage effect. (Collection of Brian Maederer - Military Collectibles)

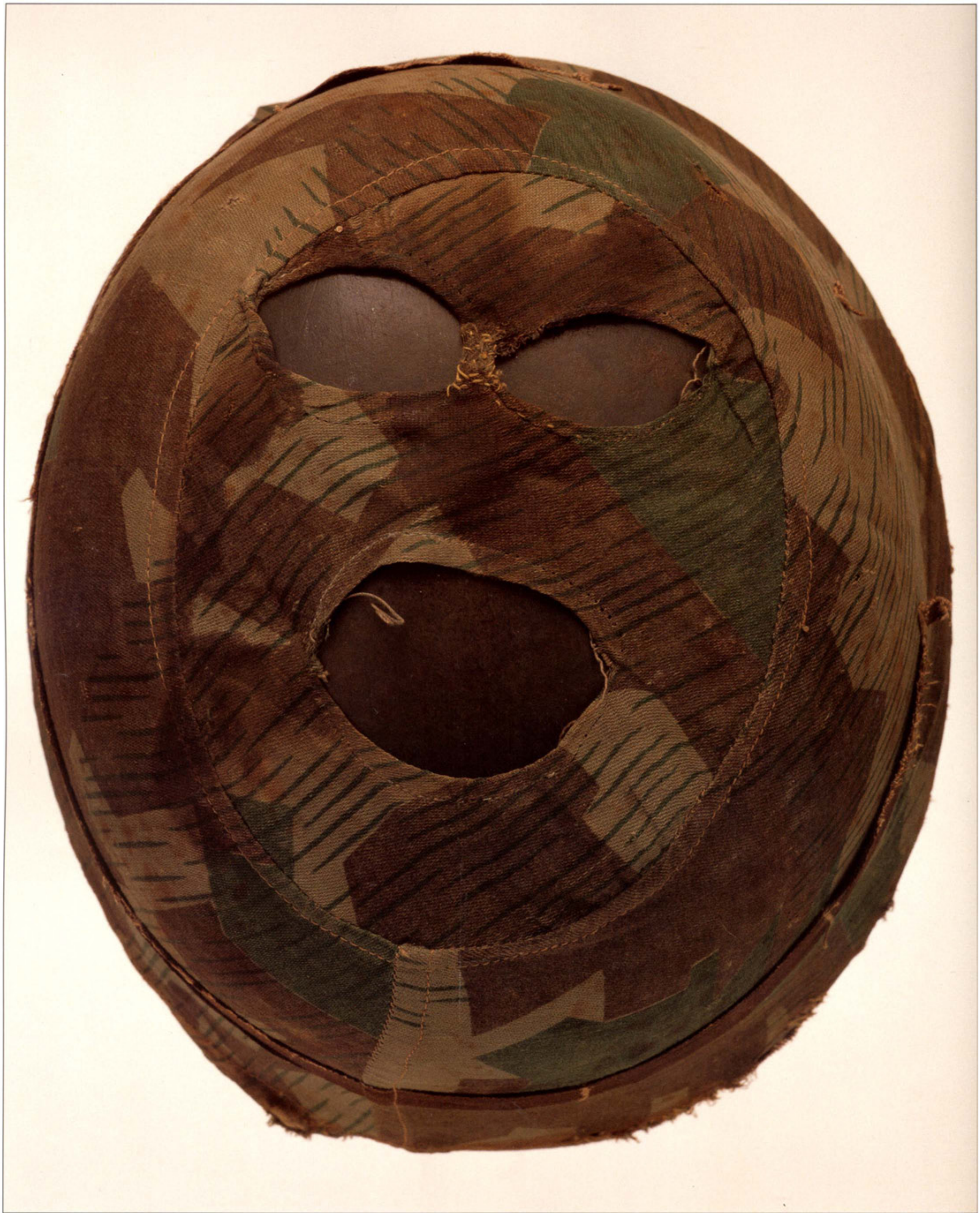




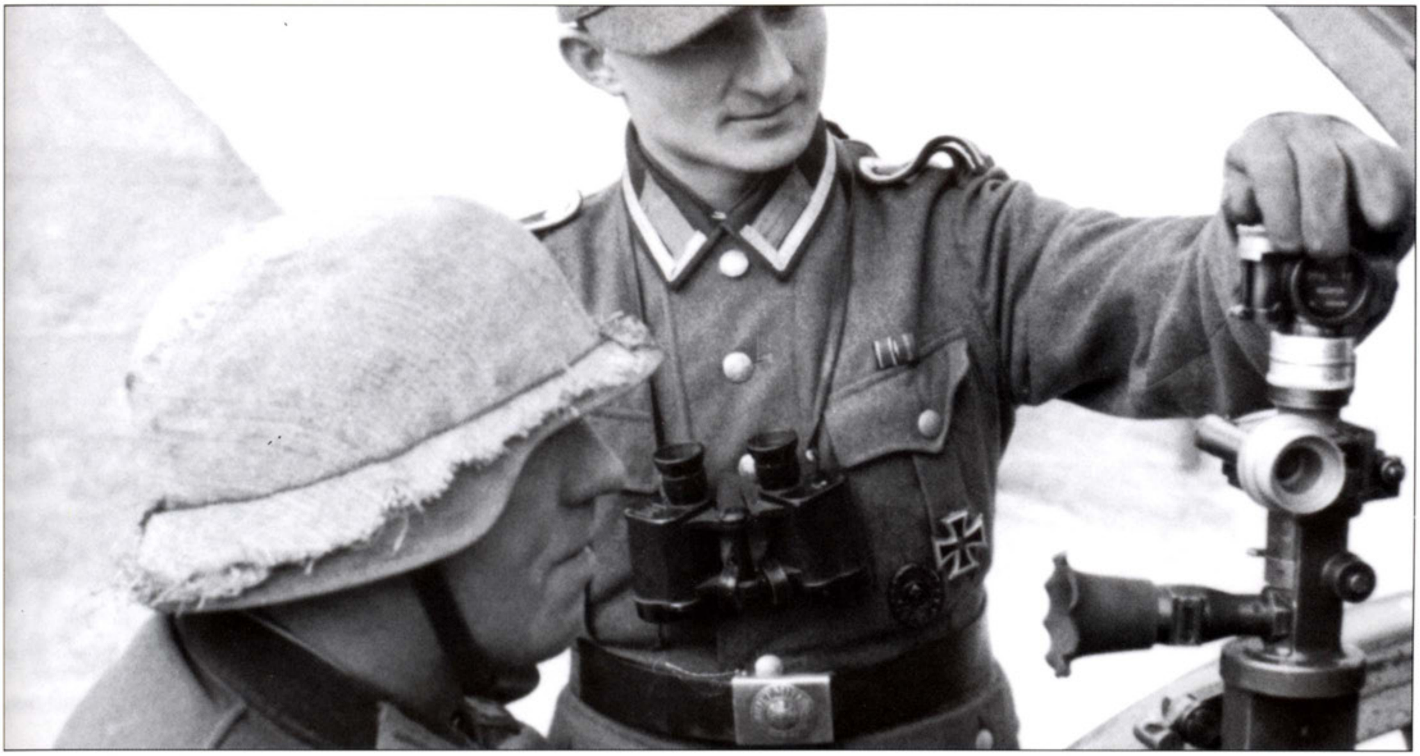


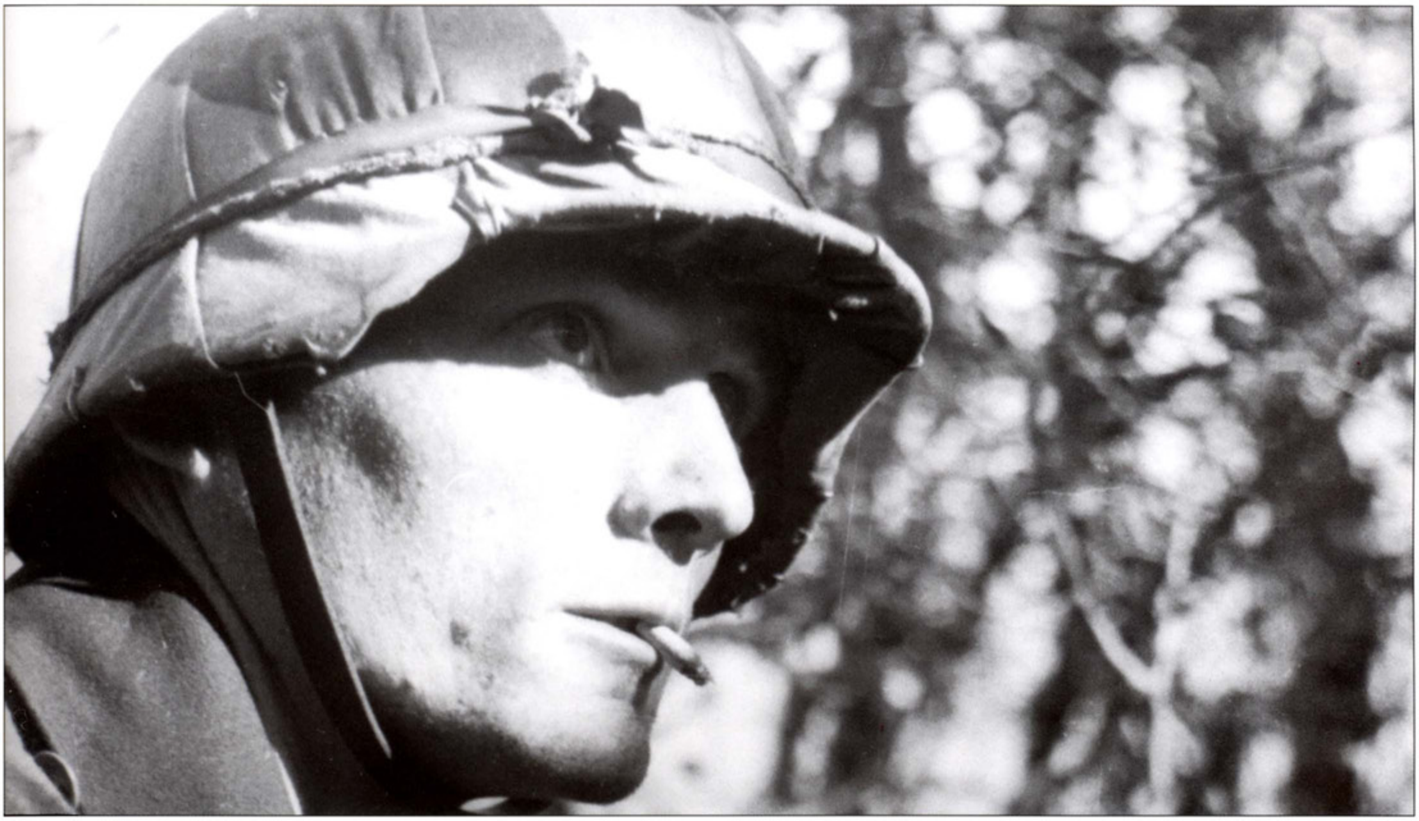






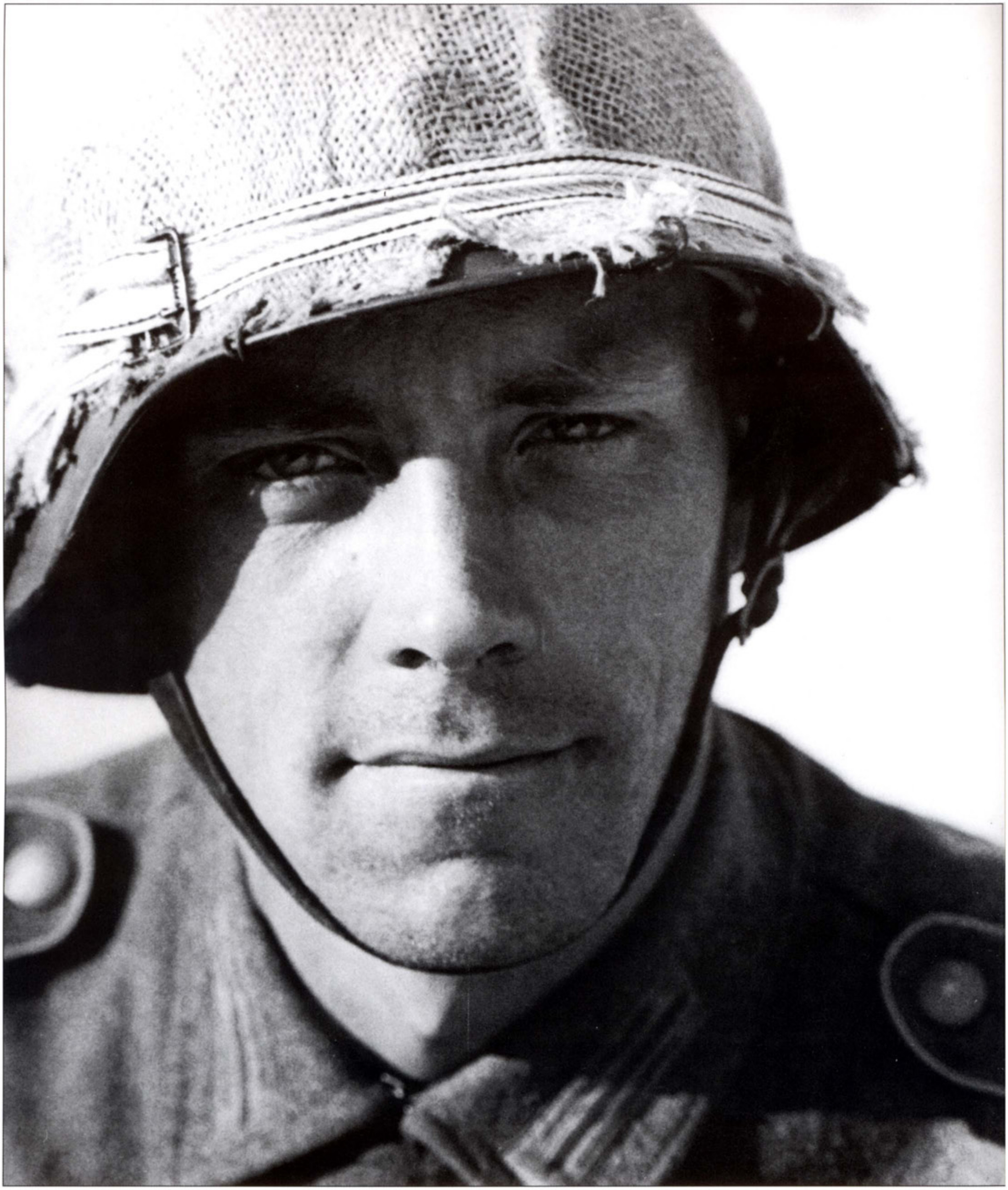
Period Photos



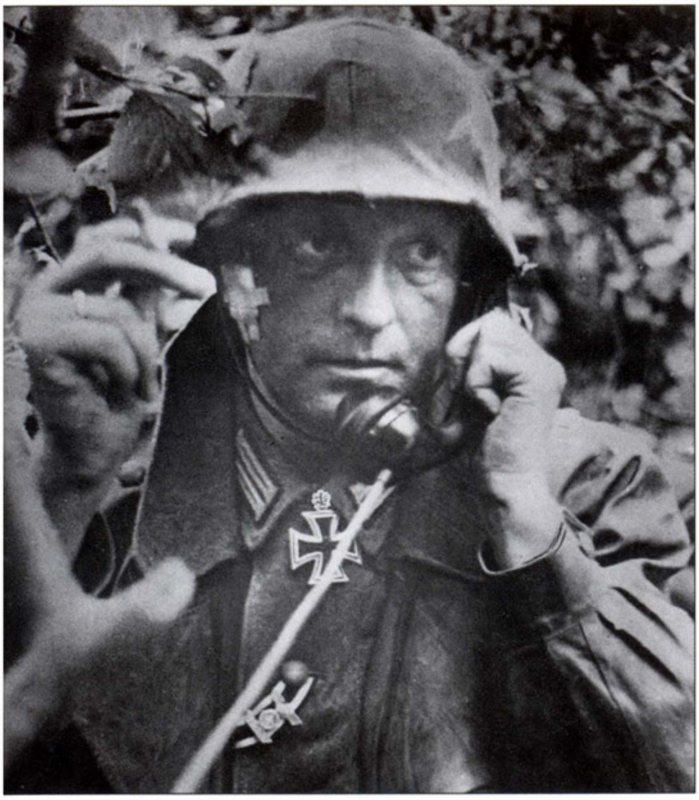


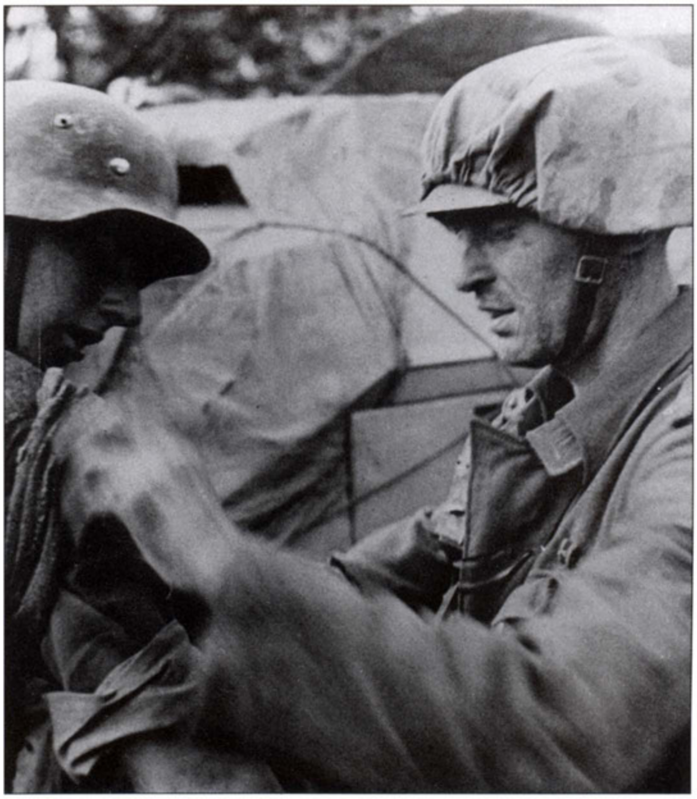
■ Top: A crude hessian cover on this M42 is held in place by a simple wire band. *(BA)*

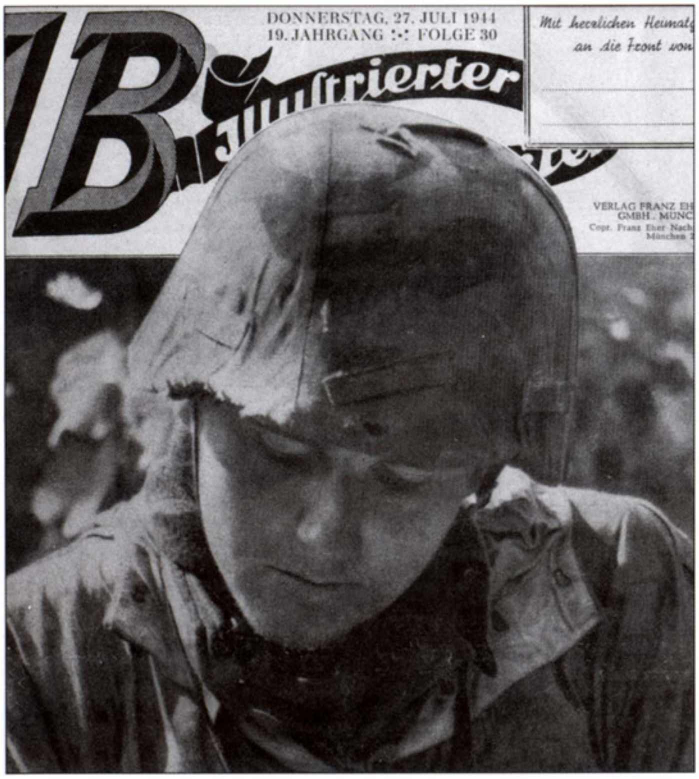
■ Bottom: A home-made cloth cover of Italian camouflage material with a cloth band tied around the shell. *(BA)*

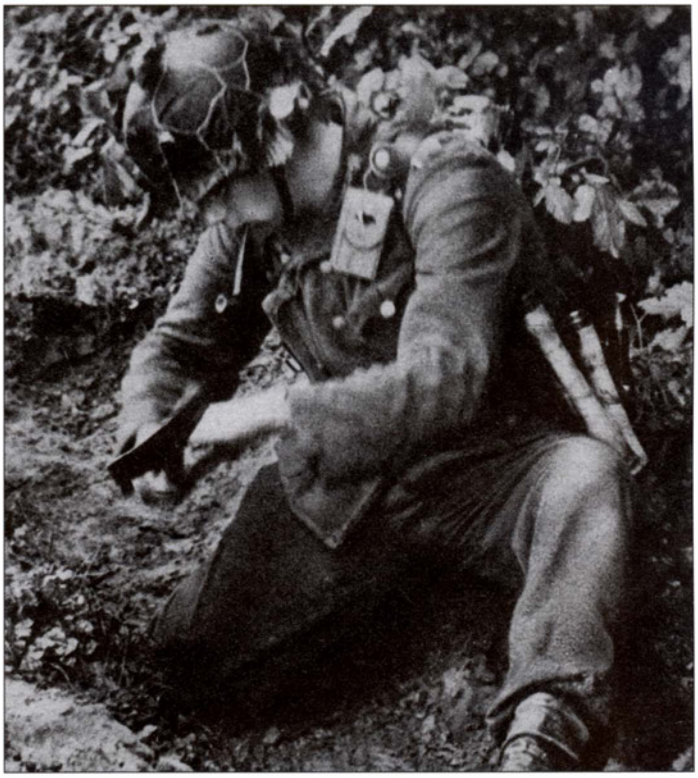


■ Another crudely made hessian cover held in place by a cloth strap and buckle. *(BA)*






DONNERSTAG, 27. JULI 1944
19. JAHRGANG :•: FOLGE 30
IB Illustrierter
Mit herzlichen Heimat
an die Front von
VERLAG FRANZ EH
GMBH. MÜNC

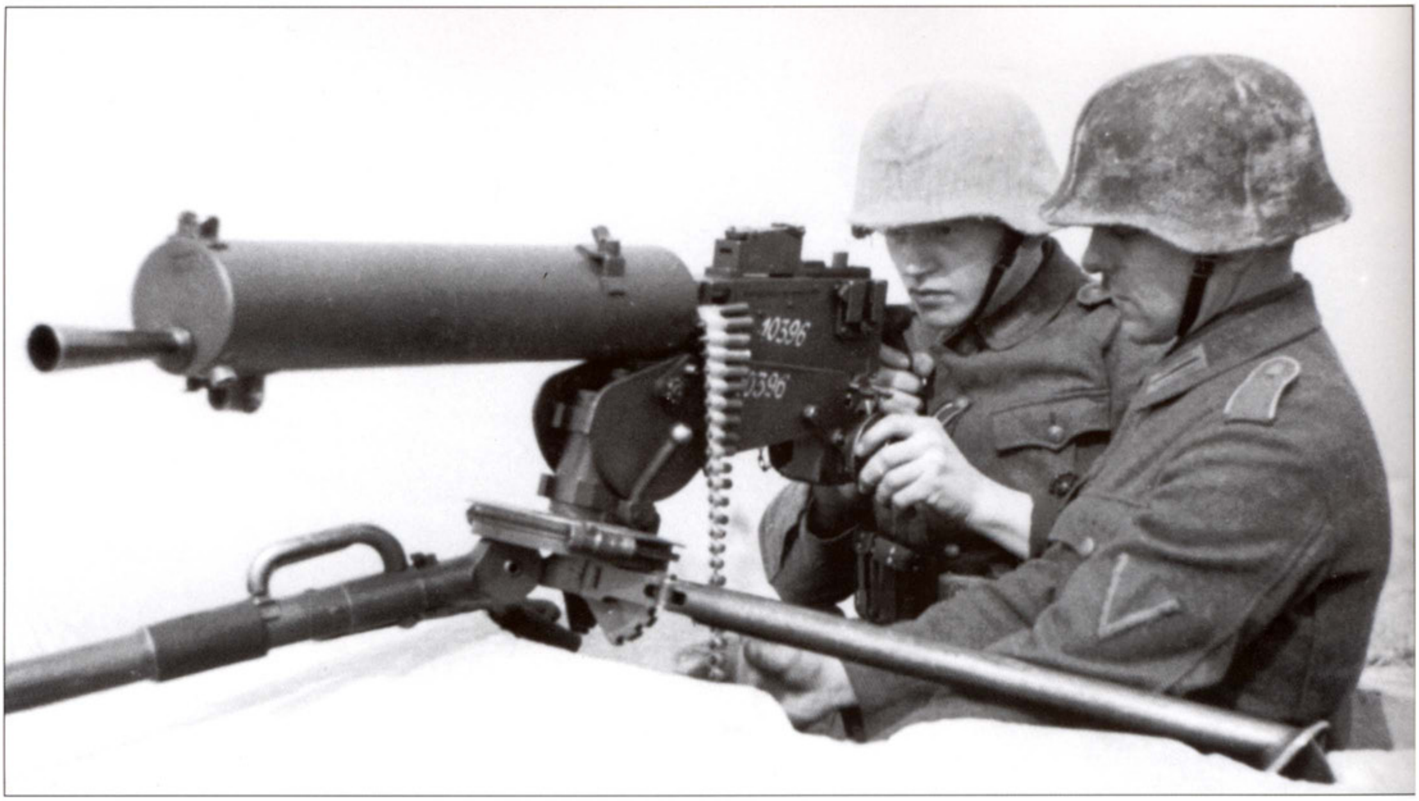


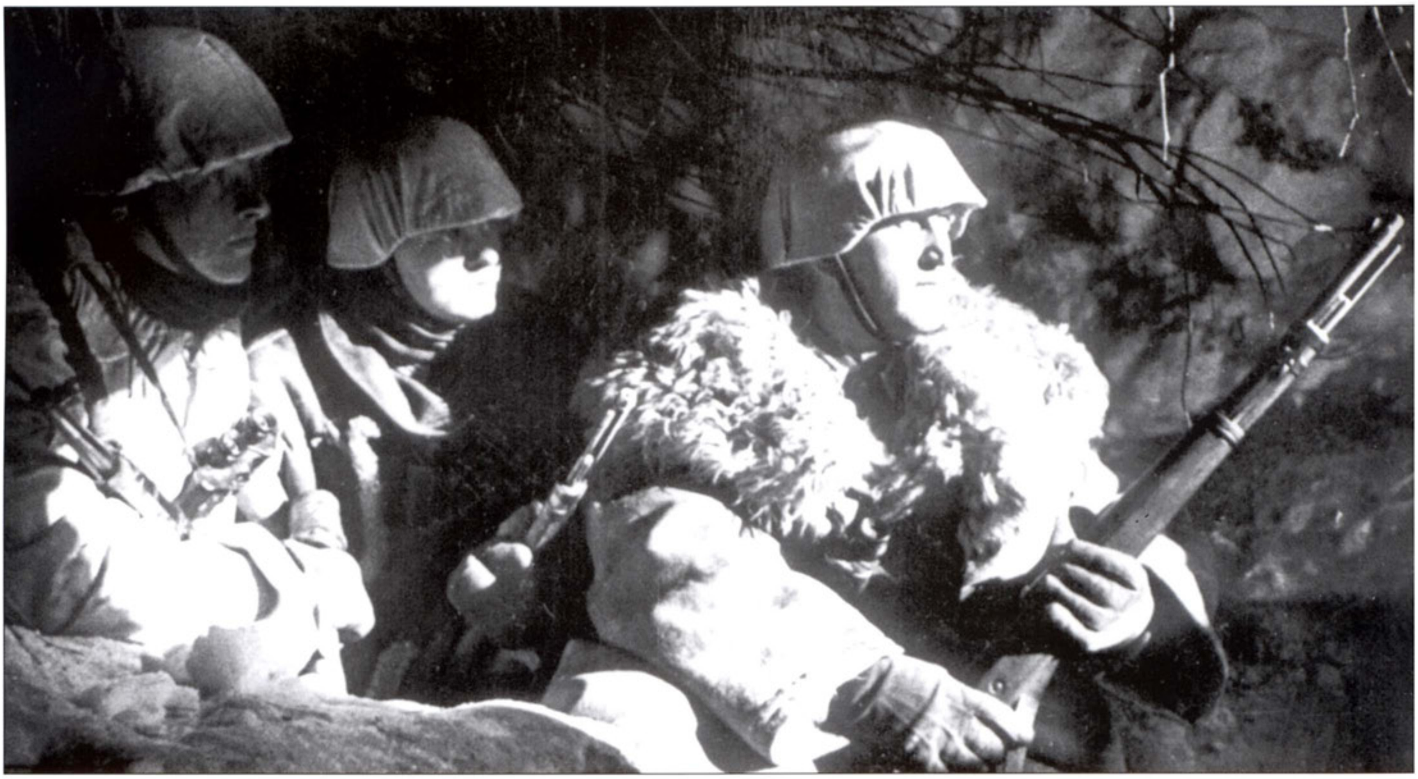
- Top left: Taken in June 1943, this winner of the Knight's Cross and oak leaves is wearing a home-made fitted cloth cover of Italian camouflage material over his helmet. (Note that his oak leaves have been painted onto the photograph.) *(Author)*

- Top left: This man, tending his comrade's wounds, has a home-made drawstring cloth cover over his helmet. *(Author)*

- Bottom left: Pictured in Normandy, an example of a well-worn regulation splinter pattern drawstring cloth cover with loops for foliage. *(Author)*

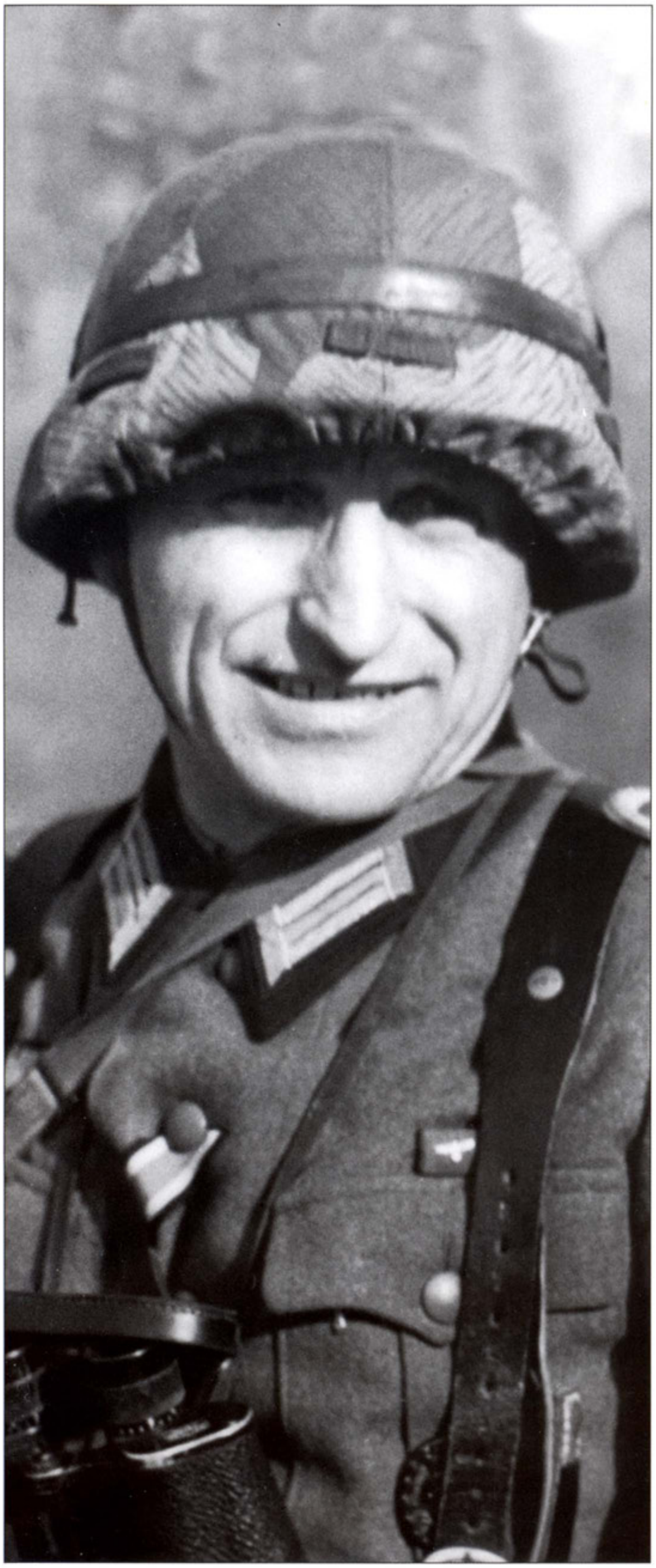
- Bottom left: Again in Normandy, this man is wearing a camouflage cloth cover of unknown origin, possibly parachute material, over his M35/M40 helmet. *(Author)*



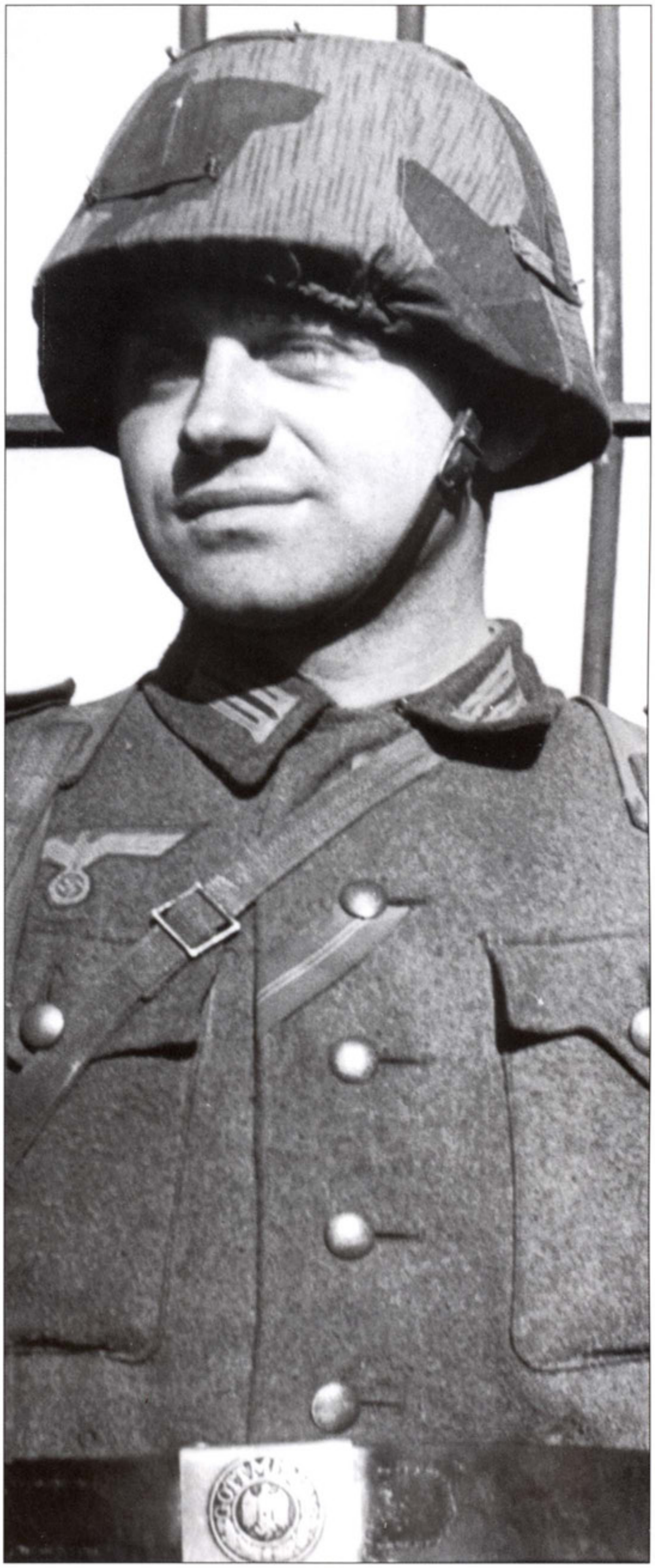


■ Top: This crew of an obsolete World War I Browning M1917 machine gun are wearing home-made fitted hessian covers over their helmets. The loader on the right has painted the material in patches of colour. *(BA)*

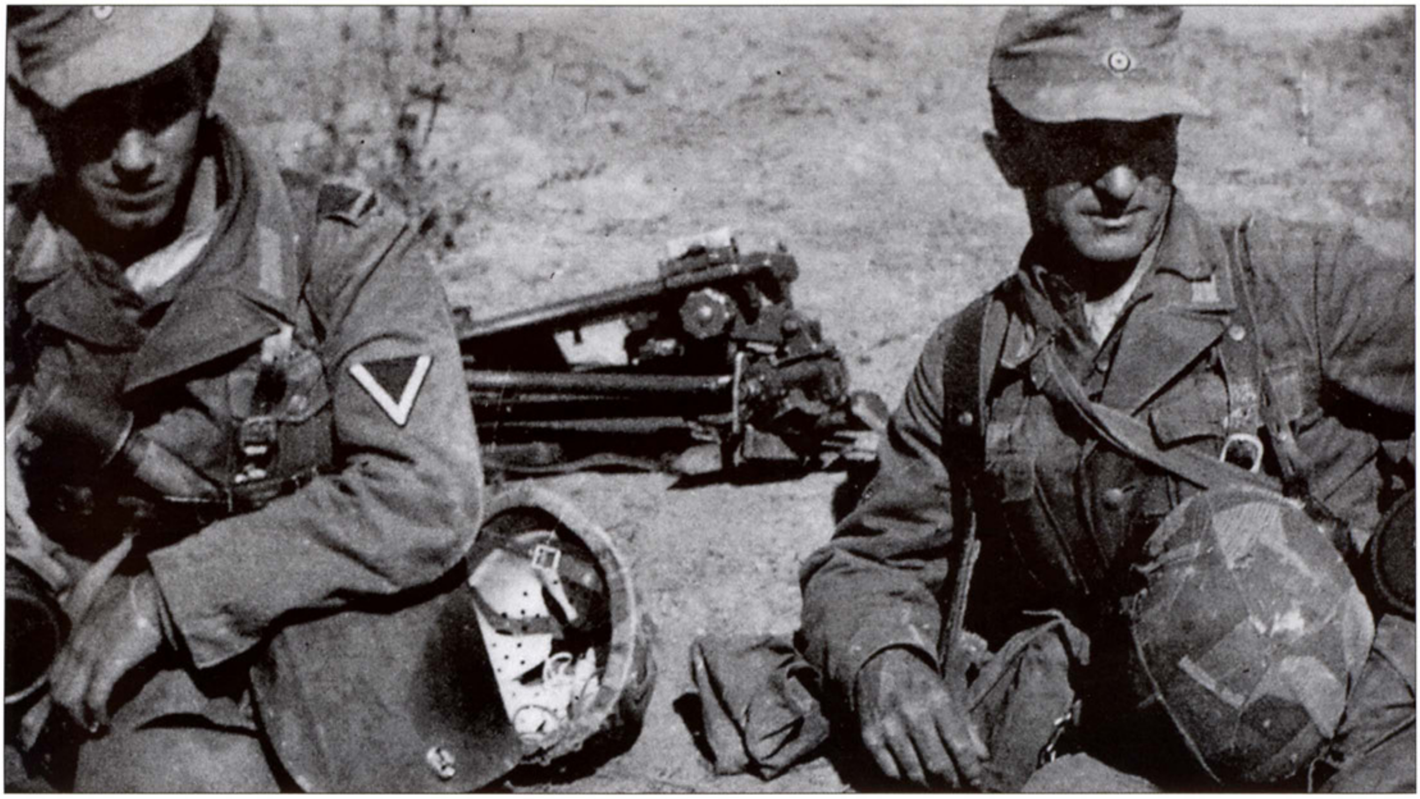
■ Bottom: Men in winter wearing homemade white helmet covers, tucked under the helmet rim and up through the liner band. *(Author)*

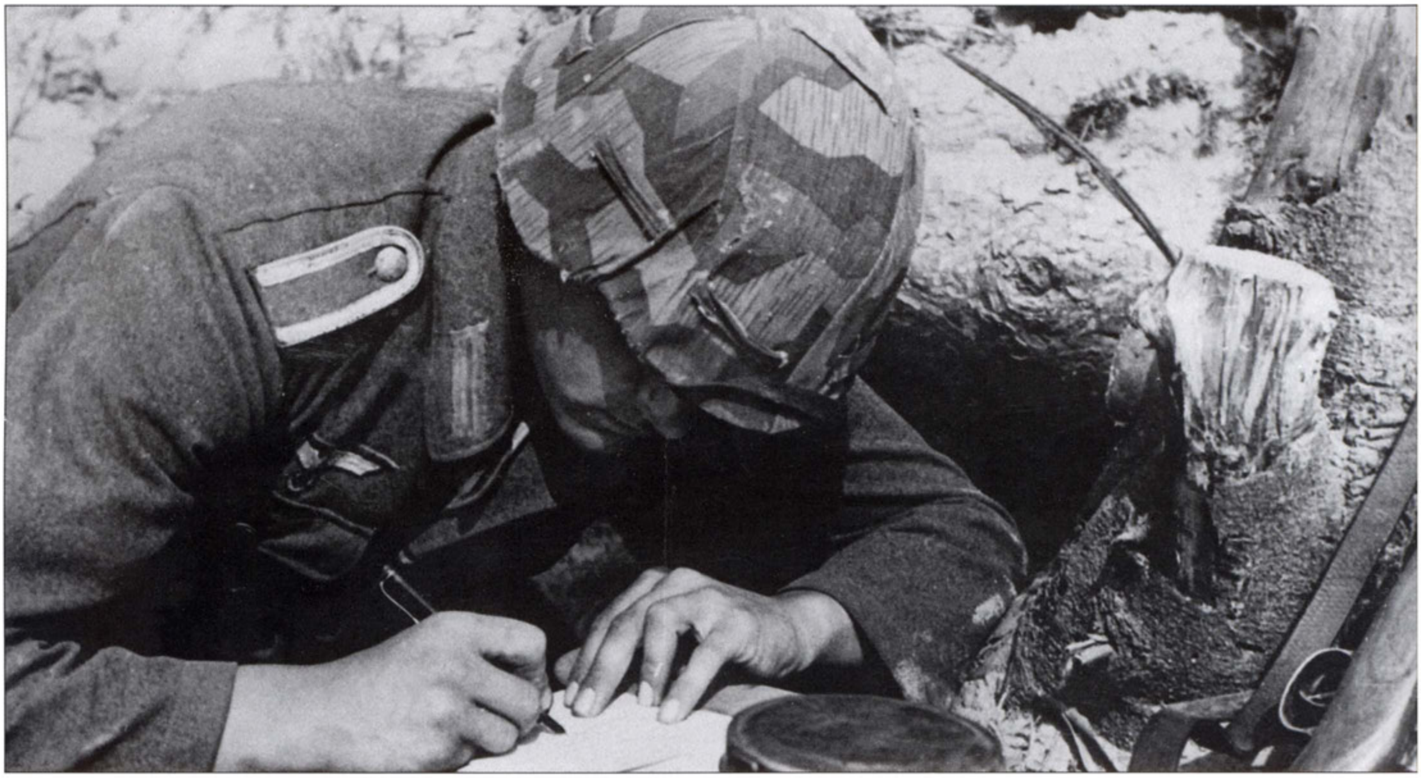


This officer is wearing the regulation drawstring splinter pattern helmet cover, secured to the helmet with a leather strap. (Note the unusually small loops for foliage.) *(BA)*



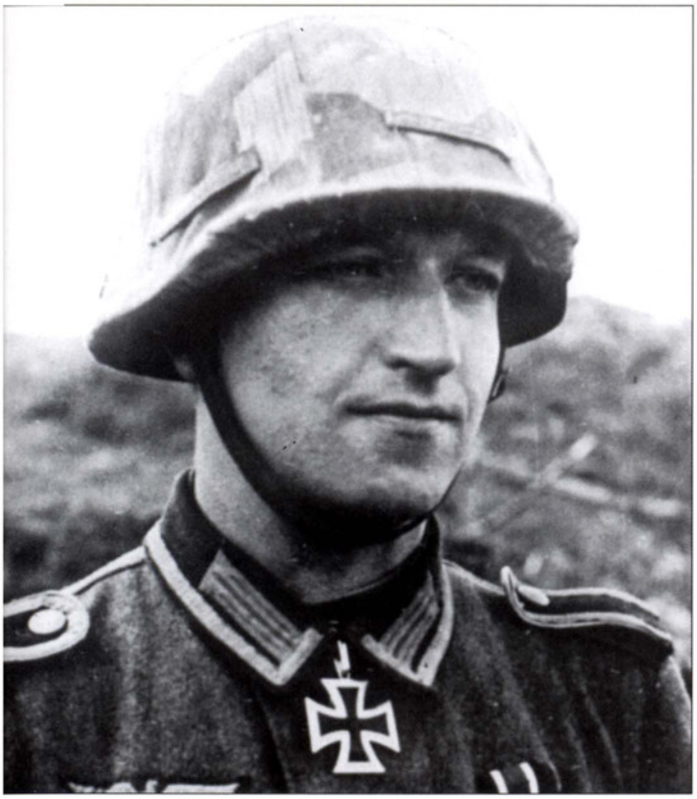
This member of an MG crew also wears the regulation splinter pattern cover. *(BA)*

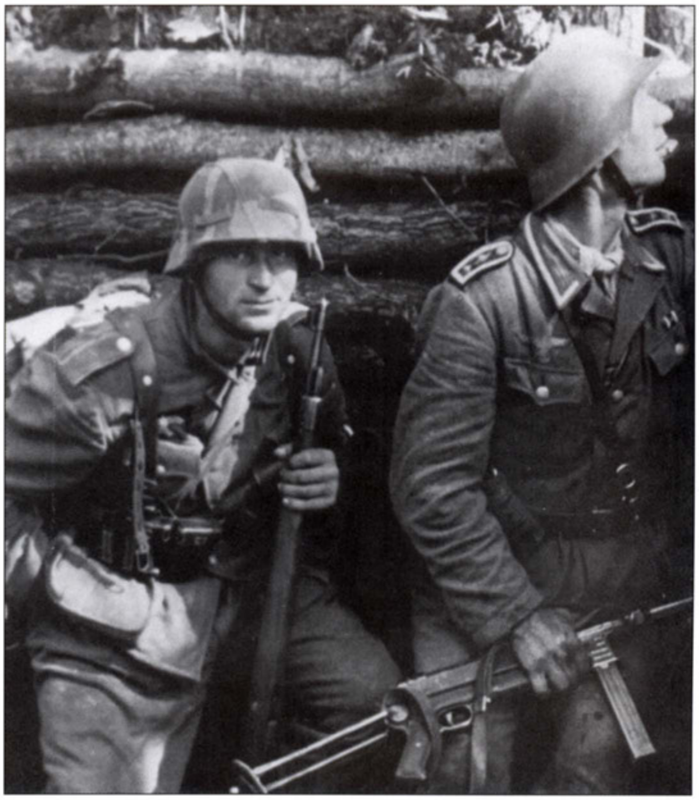


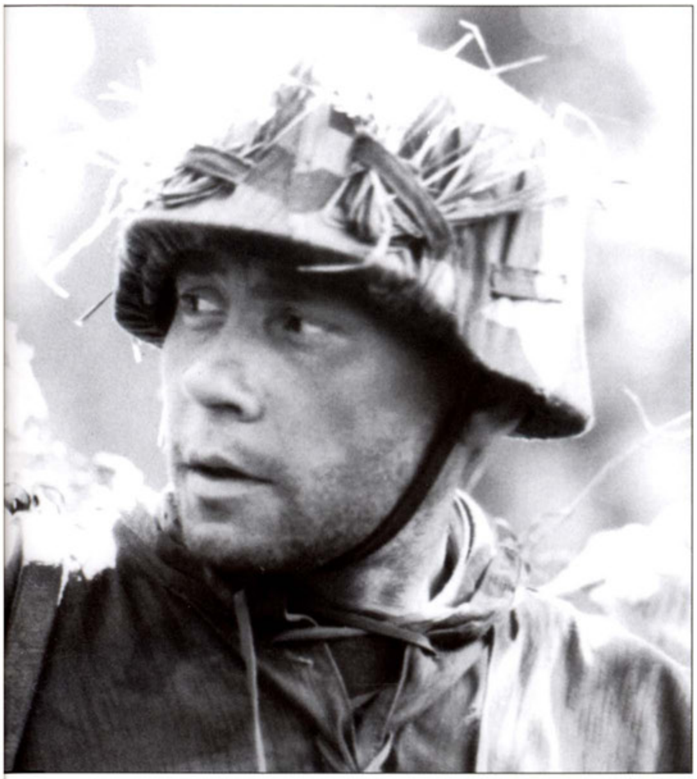


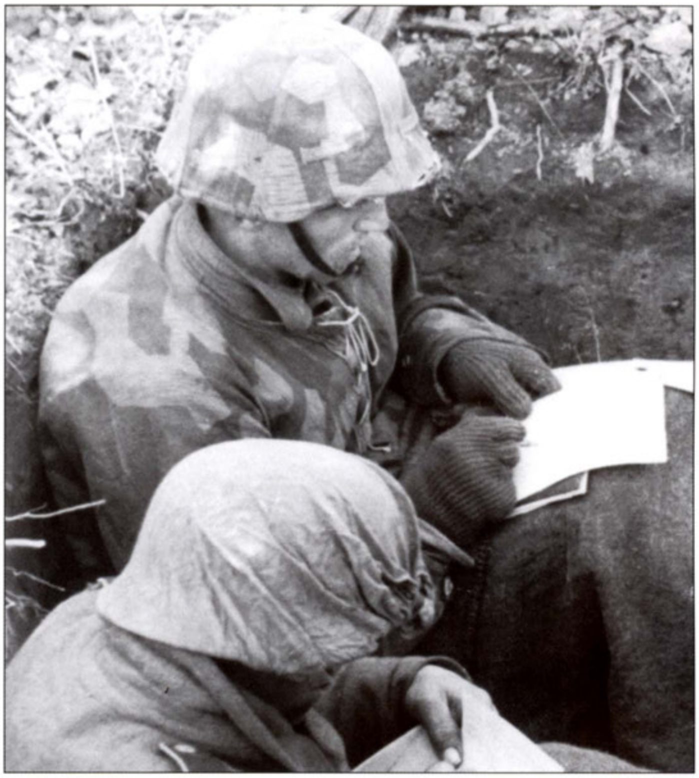
Top: These two men have the regulation splinter pattern covers on their helmets. We have a good view of an interior showing the relatively clean leather liner. *(Author)*

Bottom: A typically well-used regulation splinter pattern cover being worn in the USSR in September 1943. *(Author)*







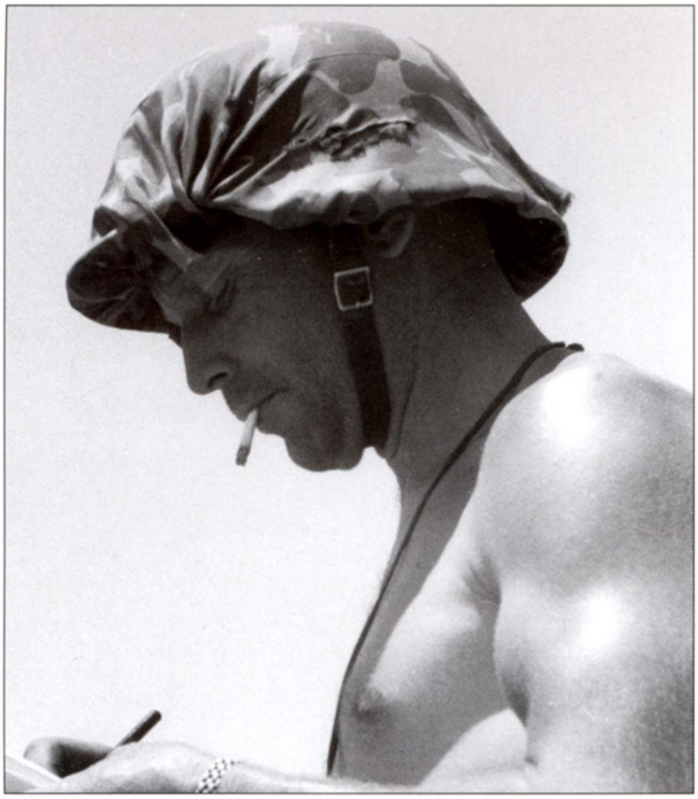


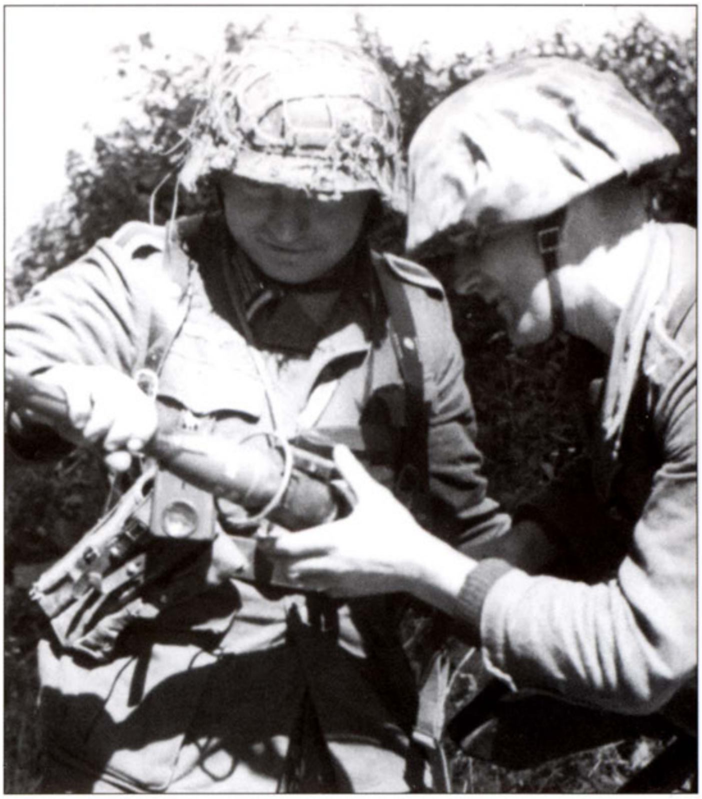
- Top left: An NCO, a Knight's Cross winner, is wearing the regulation splinter pattern cover. *(Author)*

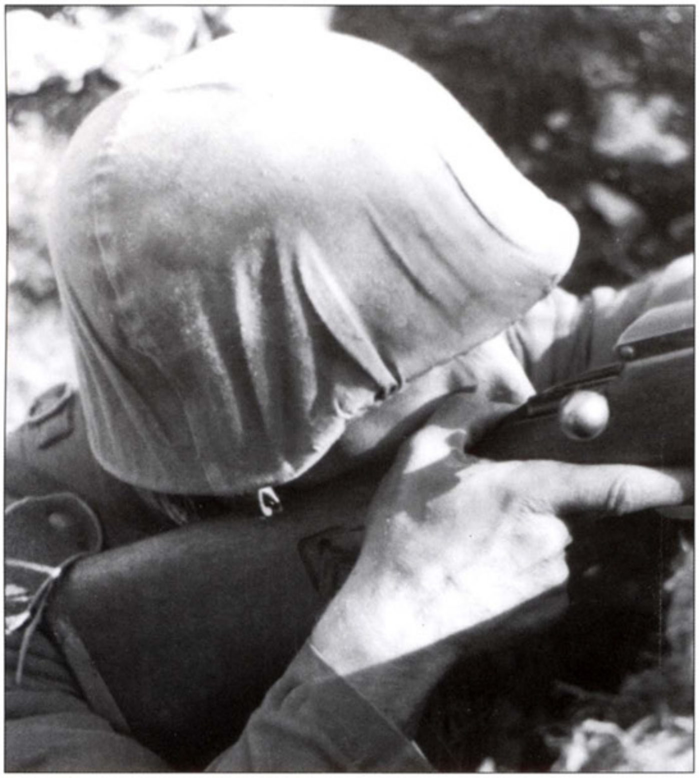
- Top right: Taken in September 1943, here is another example of the splinter pattern cover. *(Author)*

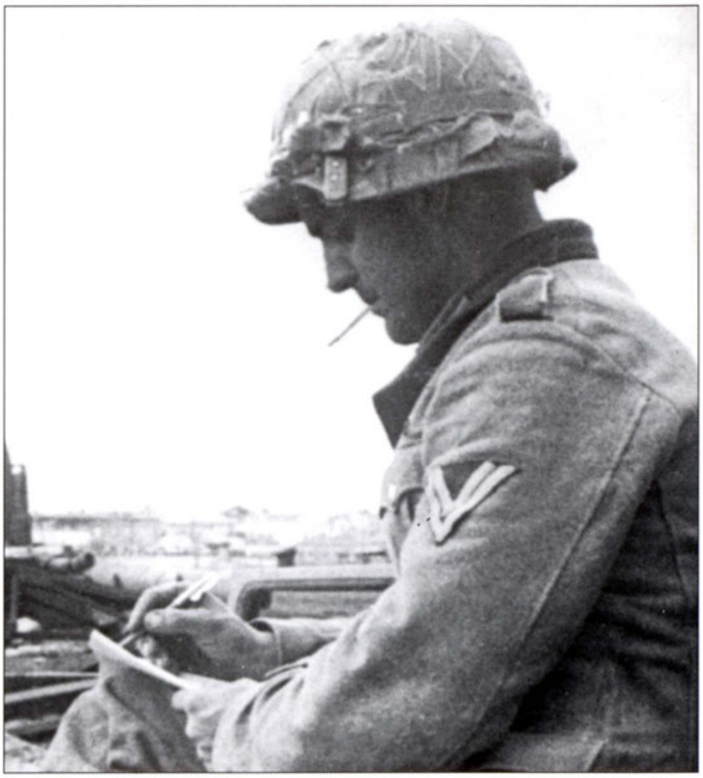
- Bottom left: A splinter pattern cover with foliage thrust into the loops. (Note the tan water camouflage smock.) *(BA)*

- Bottom right: A contrast of covers: the regulation splinter pattern and a crudely made cloth cover. *(Author)*







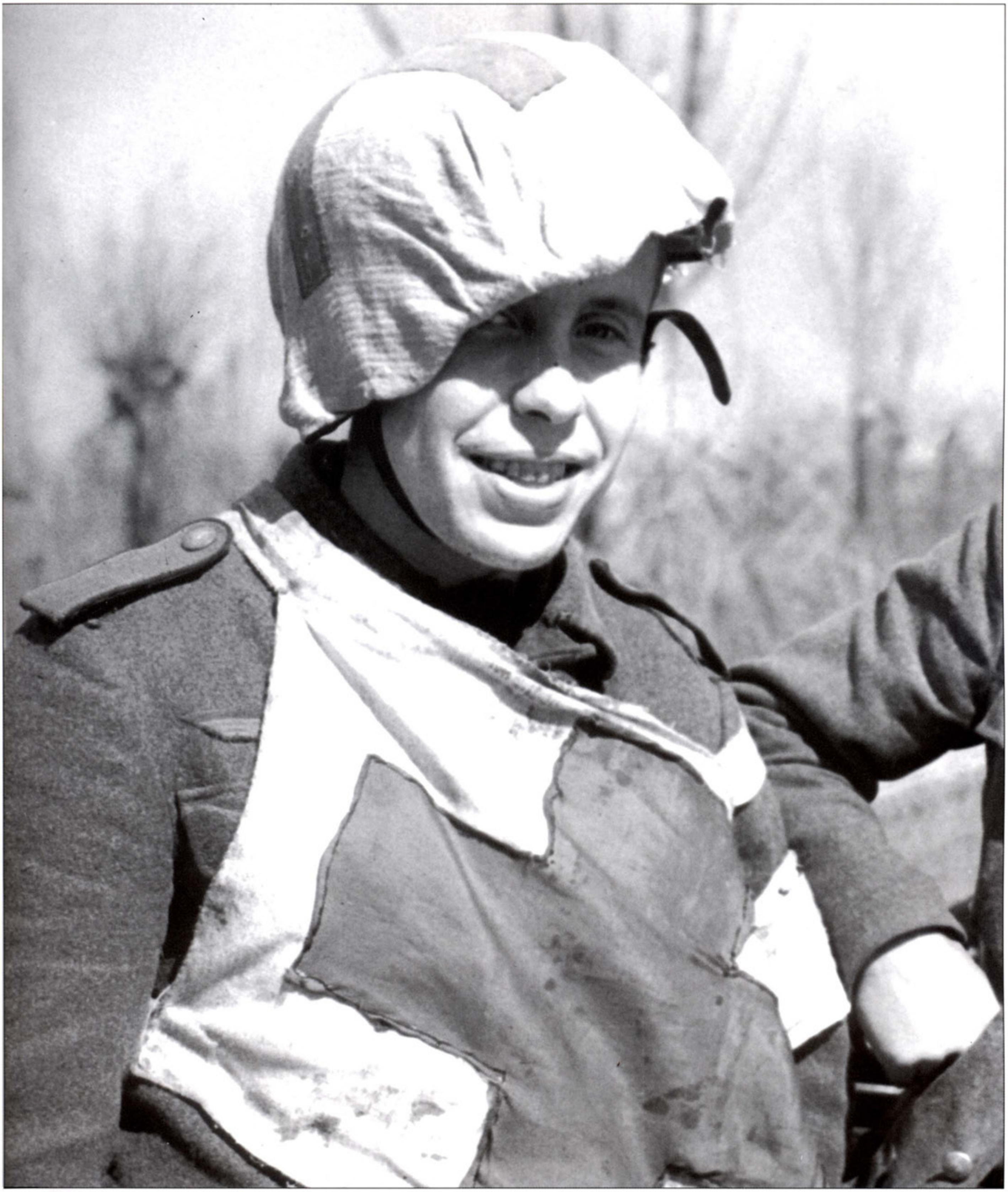


- Top left: This man has used a captured piece of parachute material as a roughly made camouflage cover. *(BA)*

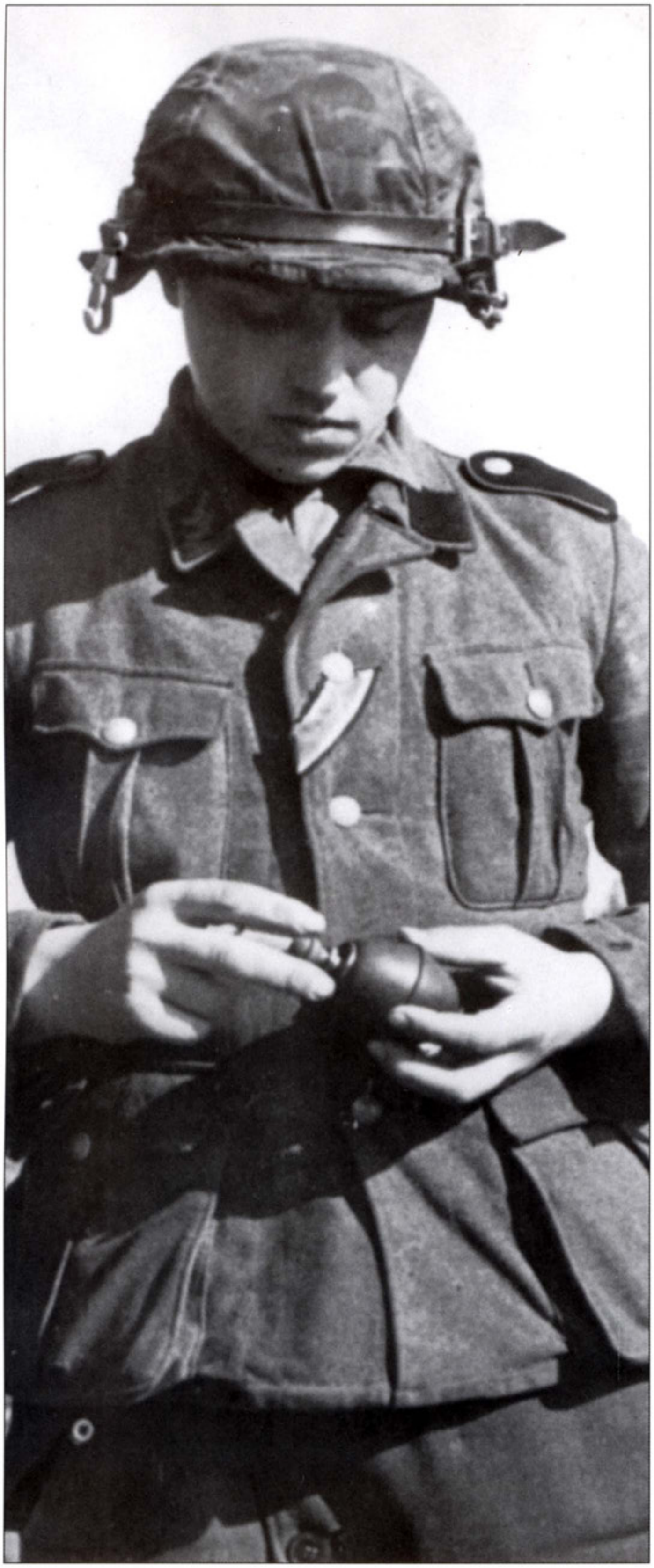
- Top right: Two men examine a captured U.S. bazooka. The man on the left is wearing a regulation netting cover, while the man to the right has fashioned a cover from an odd scrap of camouflage material. *(BA)*

- Bottom left: It is difficult to tell if this well-used cover was originally white or Italian camouflage. *(BA)*

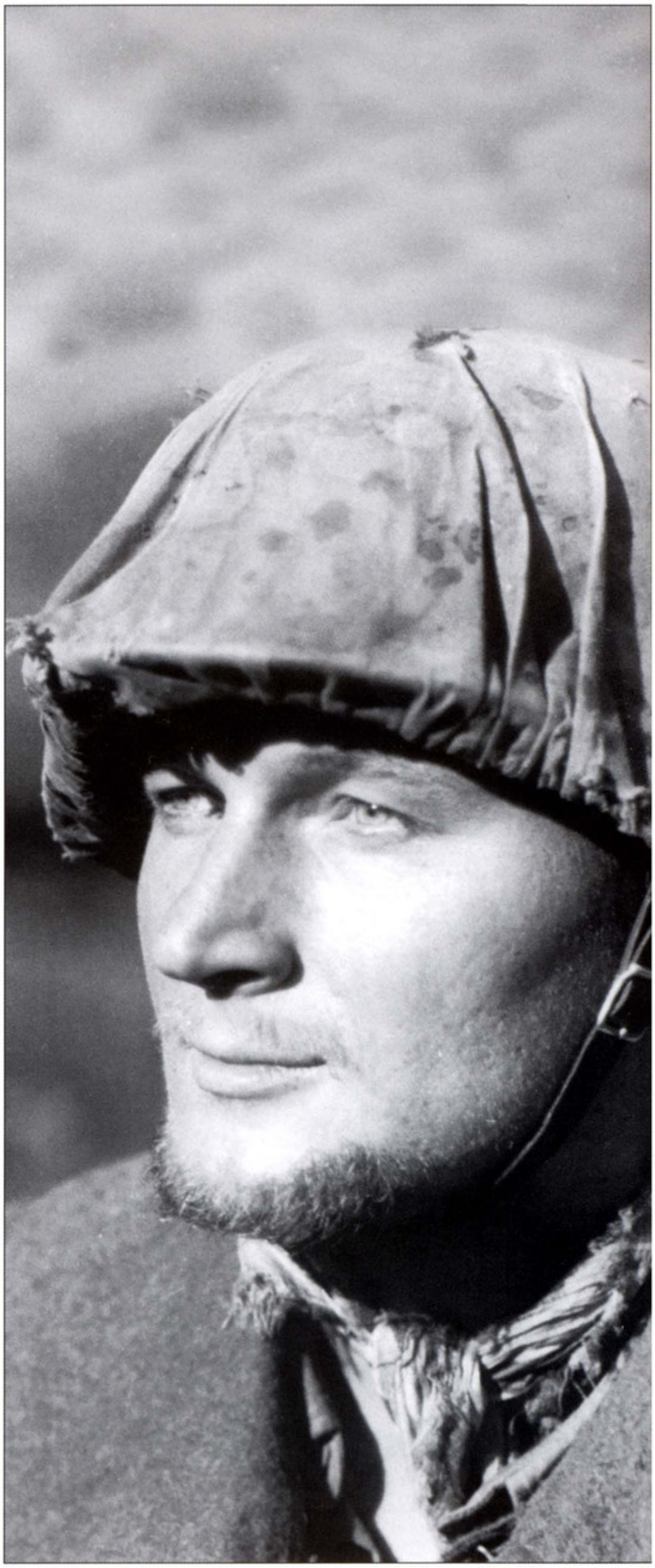
- Bottom right: This man has a rough piece of camouflage material held onto his helmet by a leather carrying-strap. *(Author)*



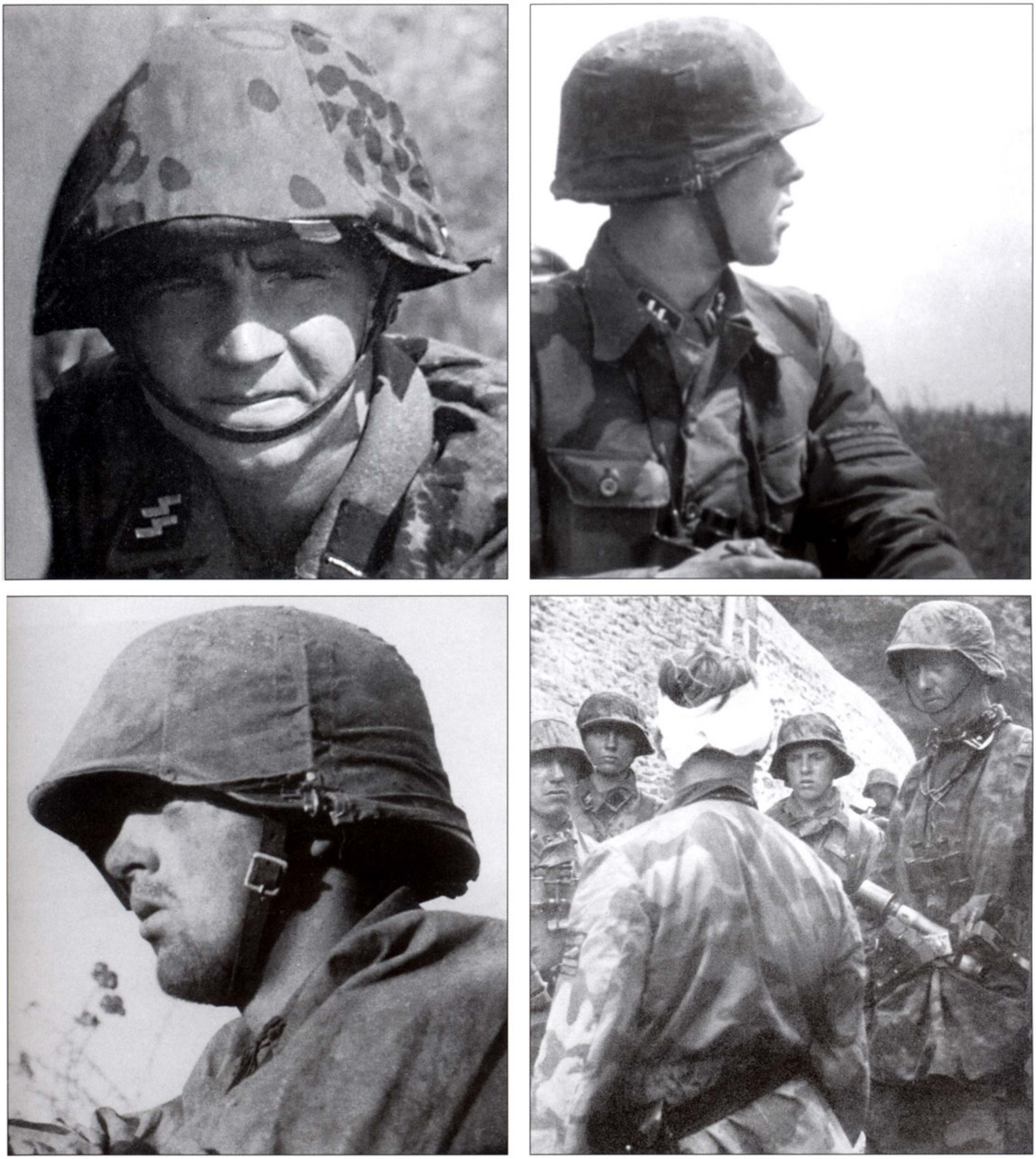
A medic captured in Italy is wearing a homemade Red Cross helmet cover and tabard. *(IWM)*



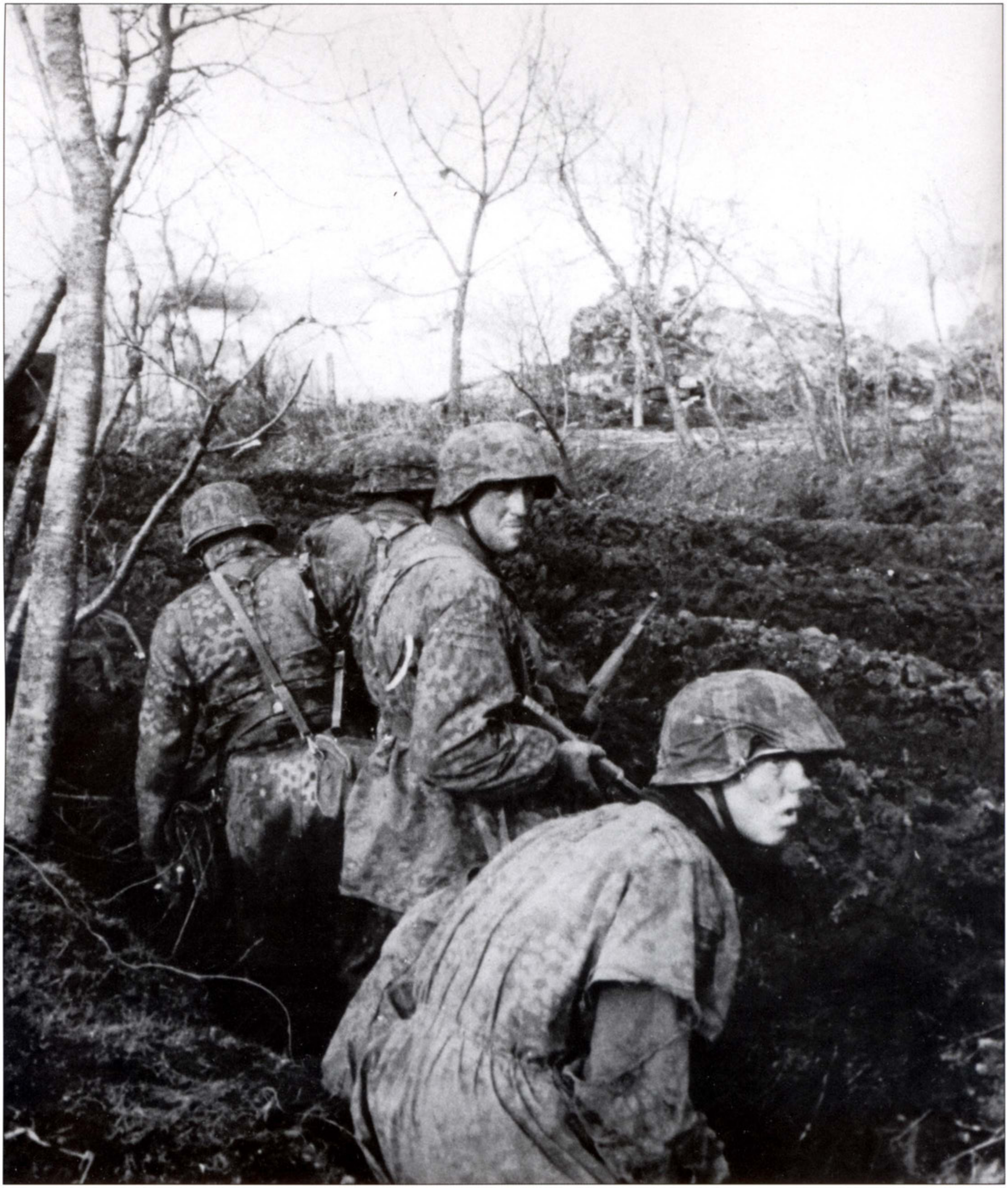
A Waffen-SS man with regulation three-clip camouflage cover and a leather helmet-carrying strap over the top. *(Author)*



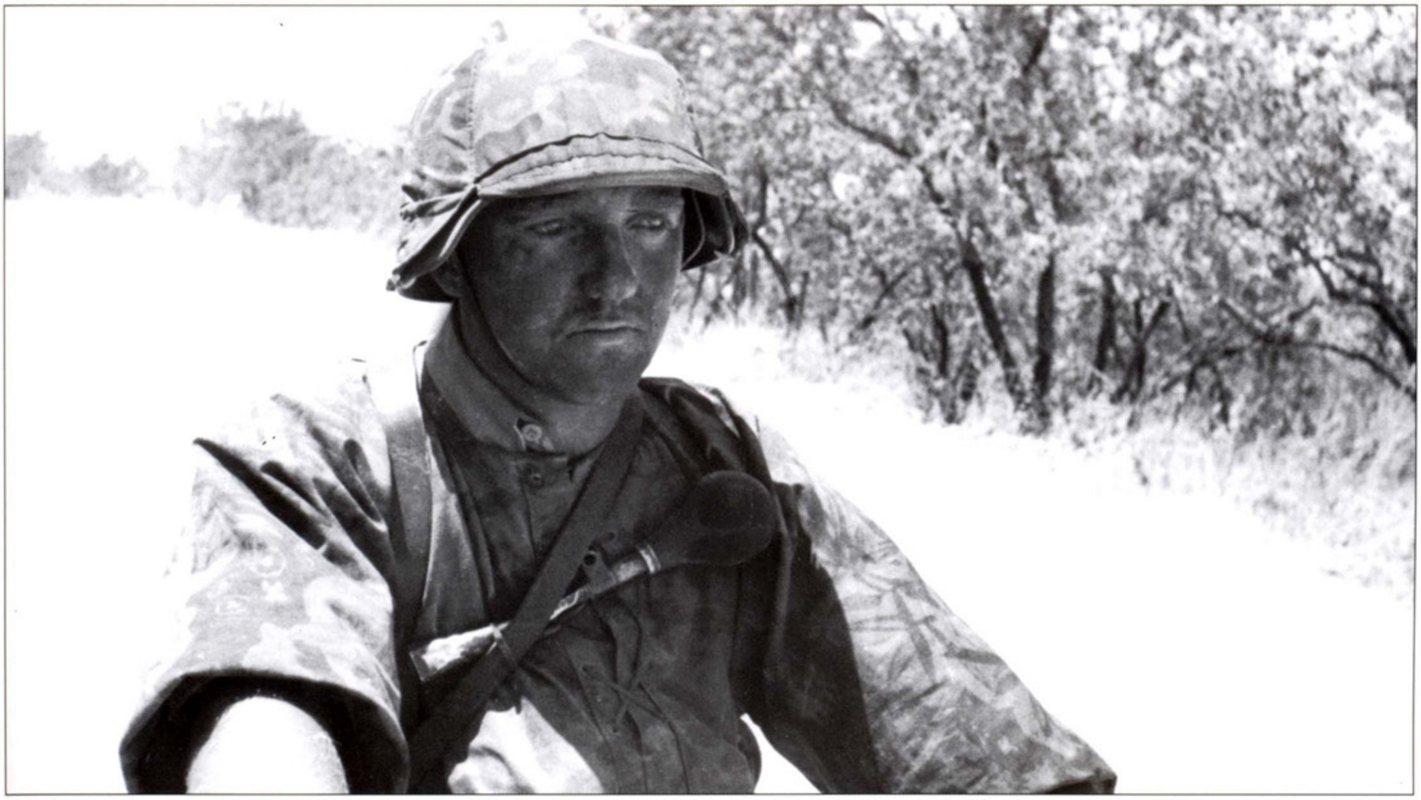
This battle-worn veteran is wearing a homemade drawstring cover made from Waffen-SS camouflage material. *(BA)*

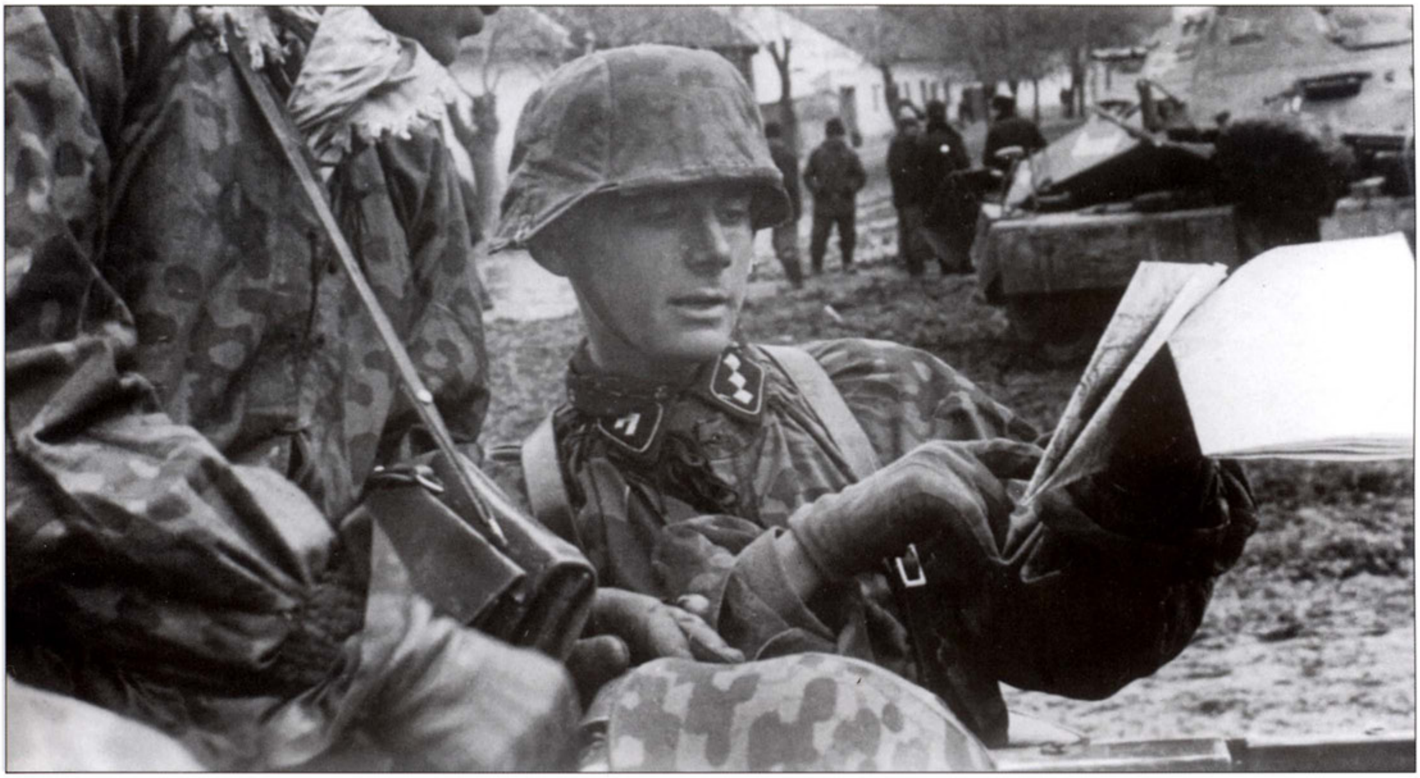


Examples of Waffen-SS regulation, three-clip covers all without foliage loops. *(BA and author)*



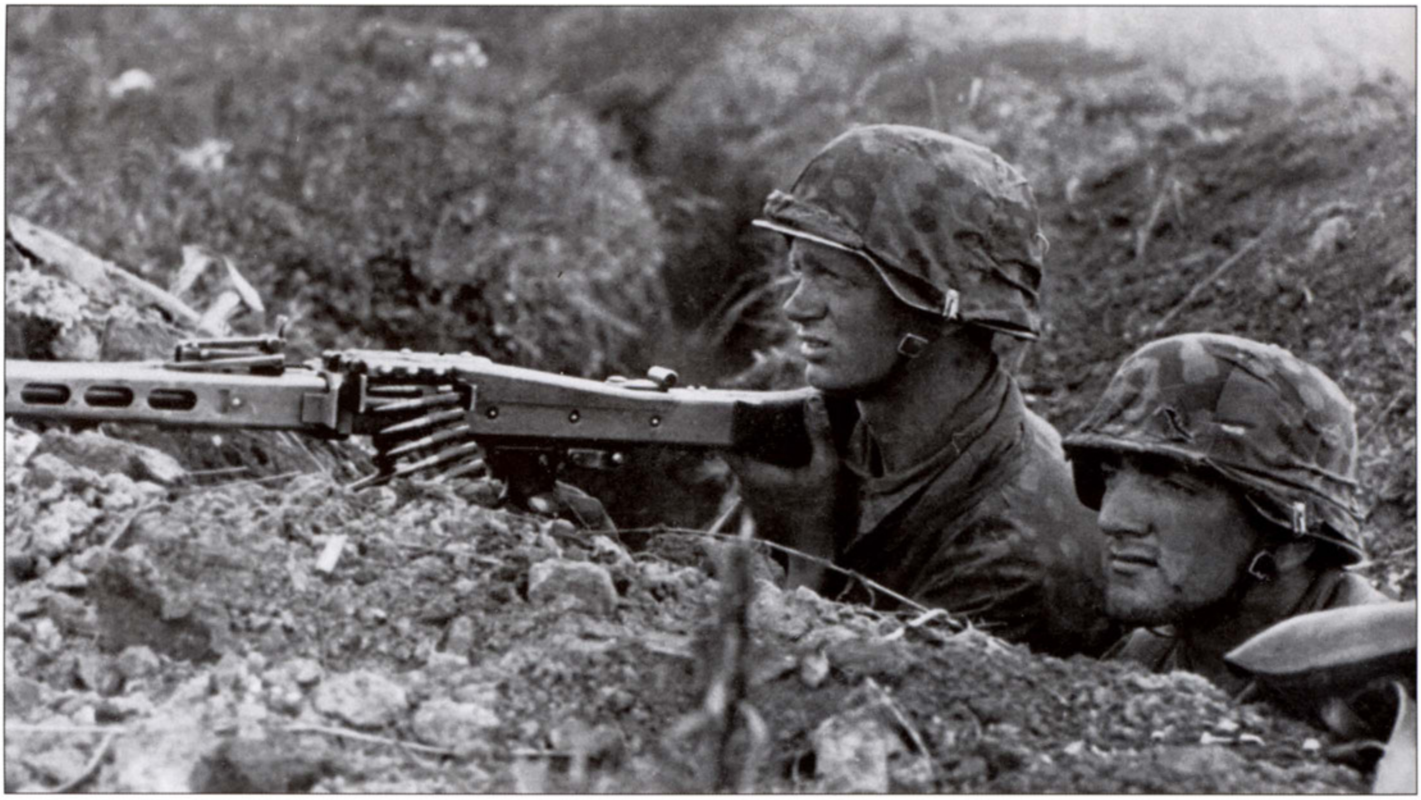
A late-war photograph of Waffen-SS men wearing the regulation three-clip covers. (Note the two nearest the camera are early models, ie. without loops.) *(Author)*

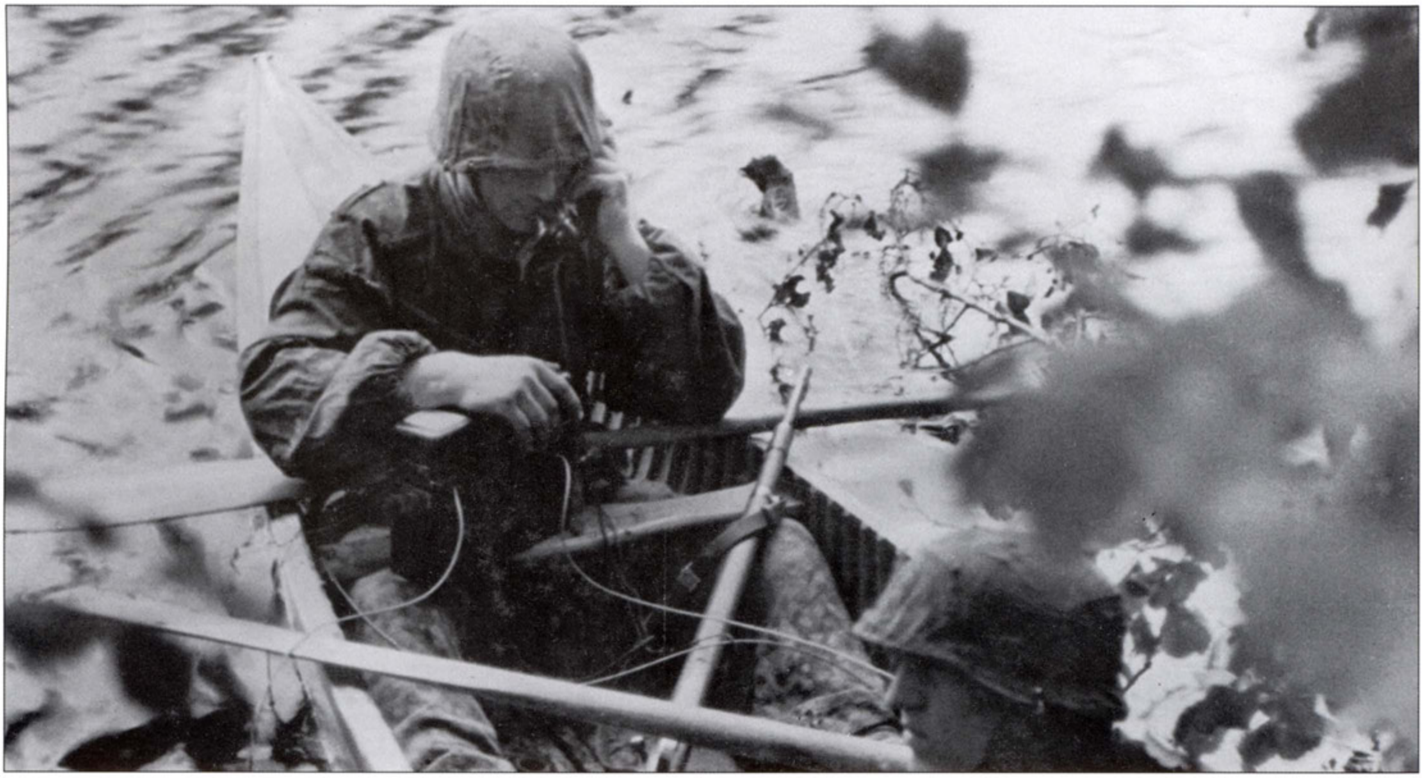




Top: This Waffen-SS motorcyclist is wearing the early regulation three-clip camouflage cover with the reinforced visor band. *(BA)*

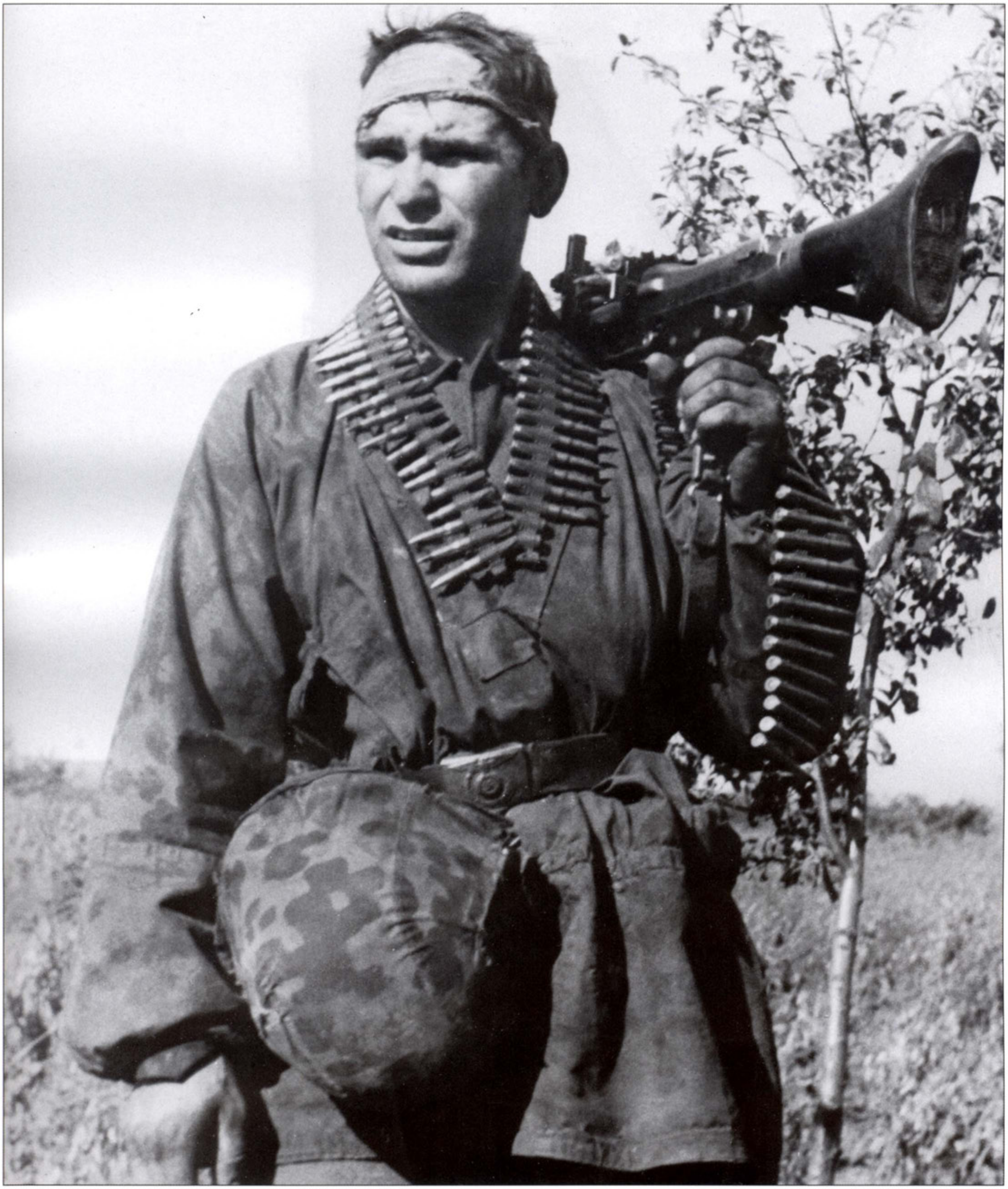
Bottom: Waffen-SS officers in Yugoslavia in 1941, showing the early version three-clip cover. *(Author)*



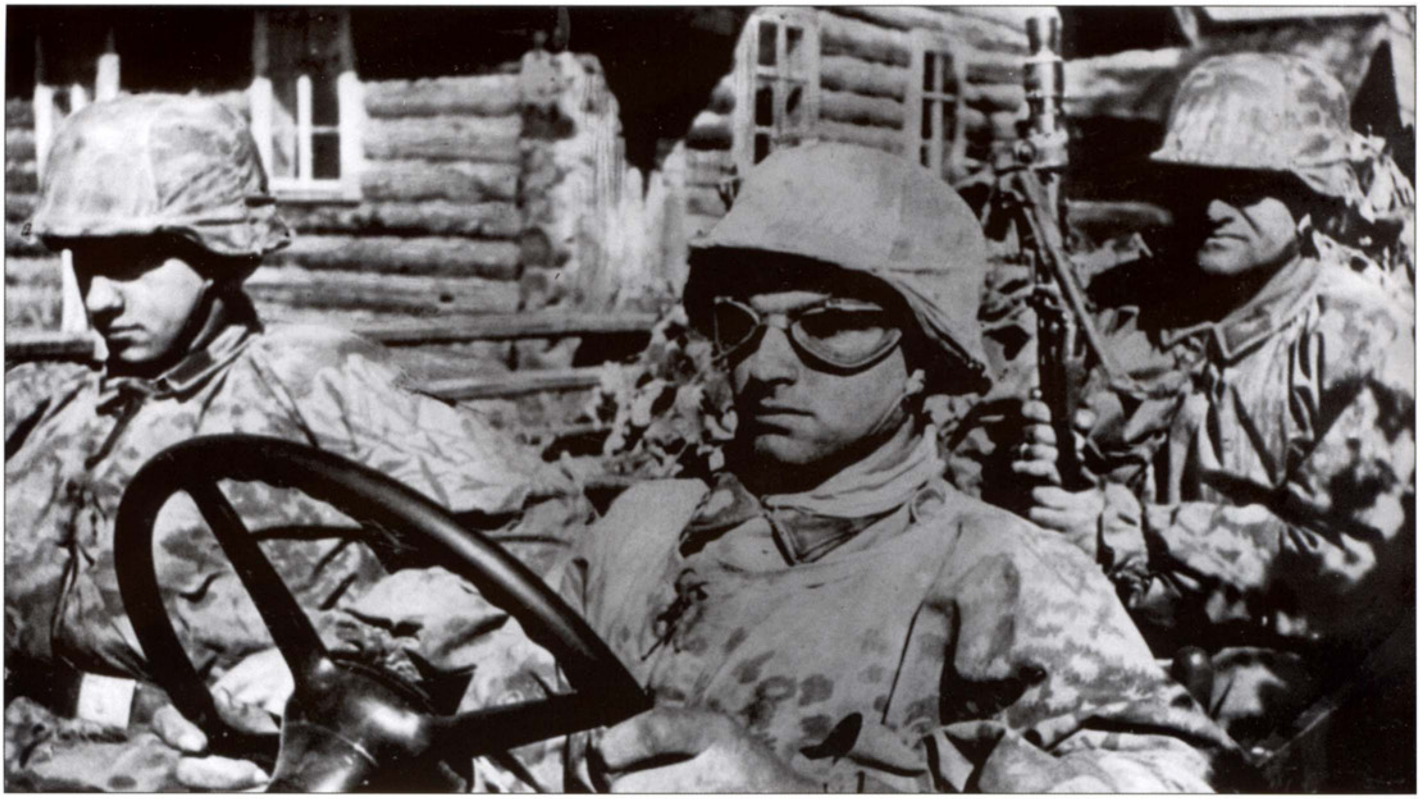


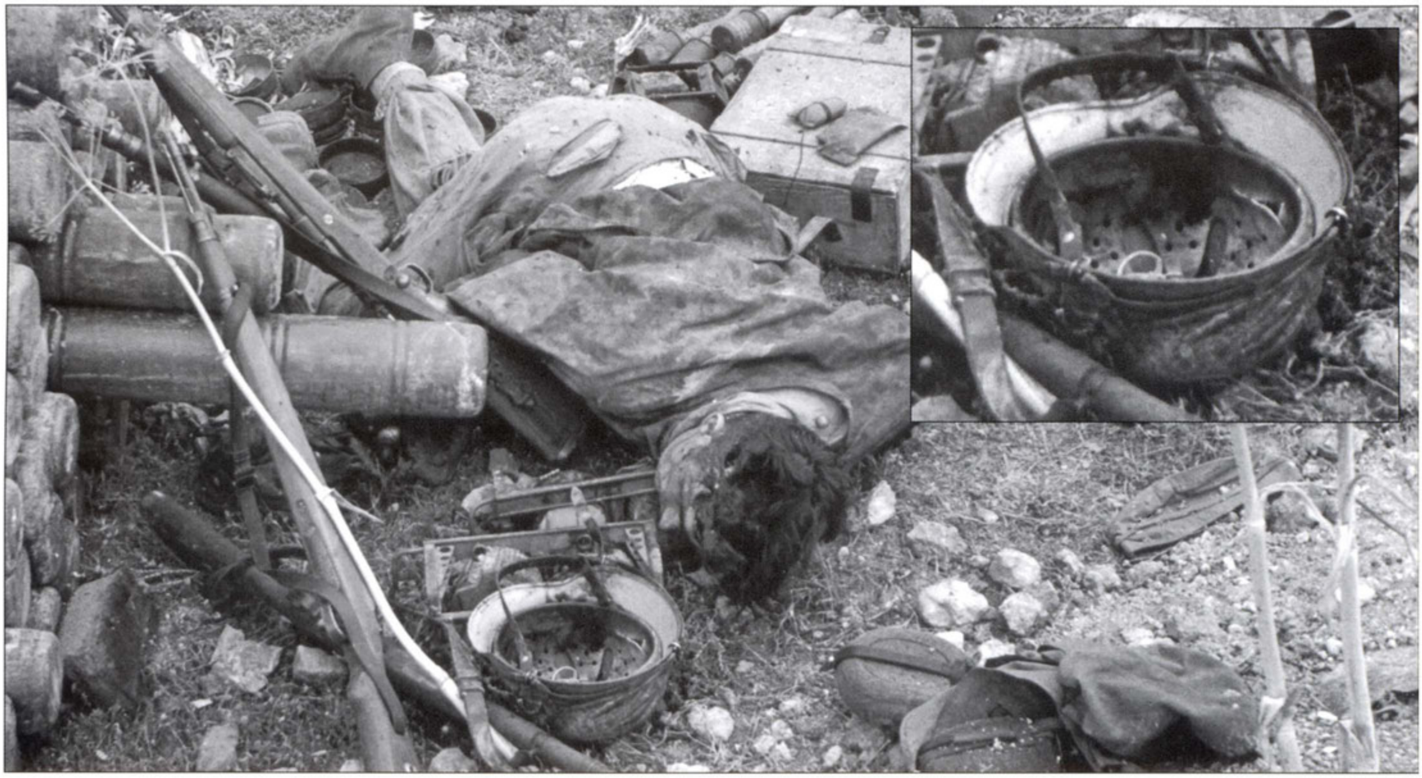
- Top: Taken in November 1943: another example of the early cover. *(Author)*

- Bottom: In Normandy 1944, these two Waffen-SS men are wearing two versions of the three-clip covers, the early version above and the later version below. *(Author)*



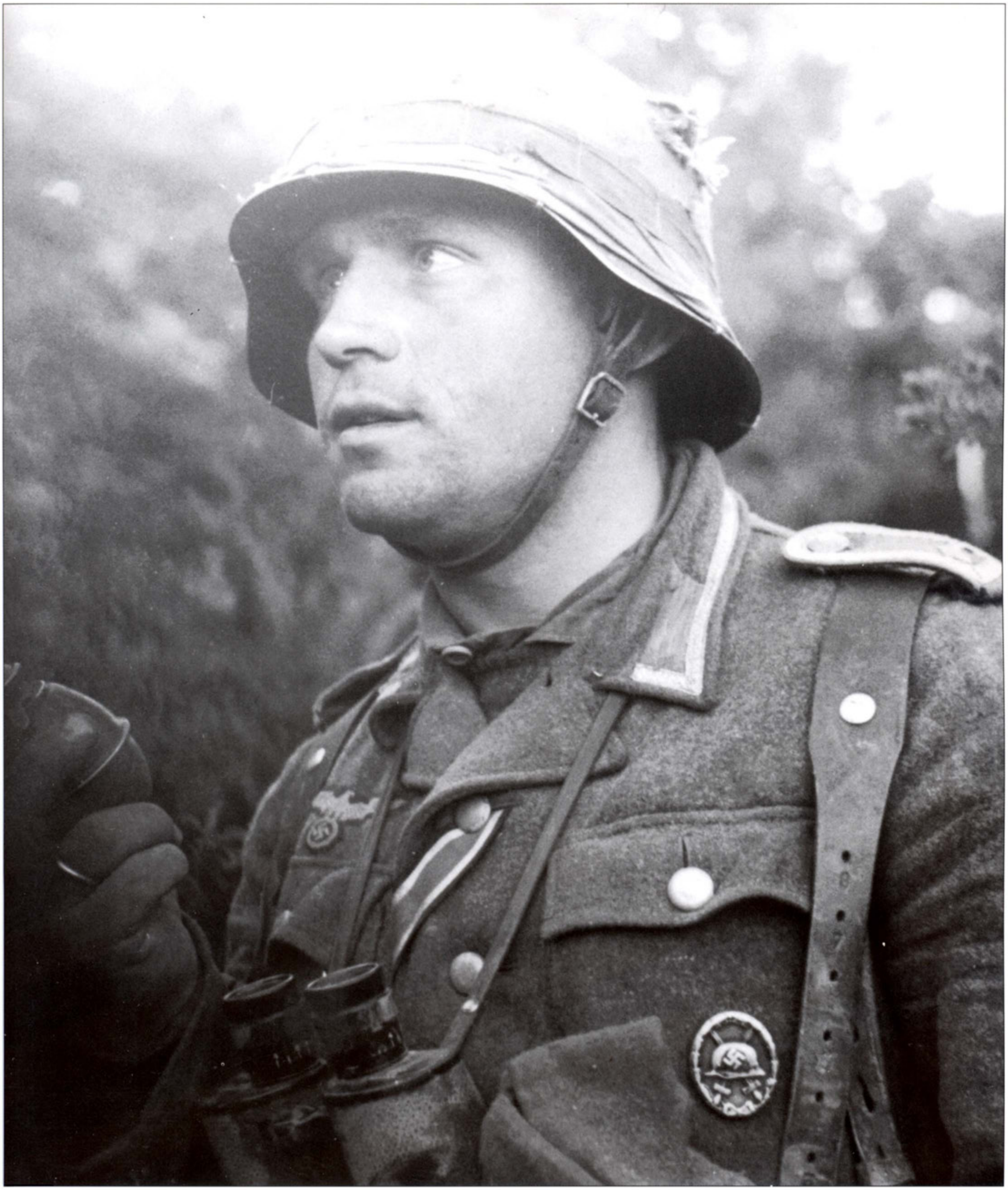
■ A study of a Waffen-SS machine gunner in the USSR in January 1941. He carries his helmet, with the early three-clip cover, hanging from his belt. *(Author)*



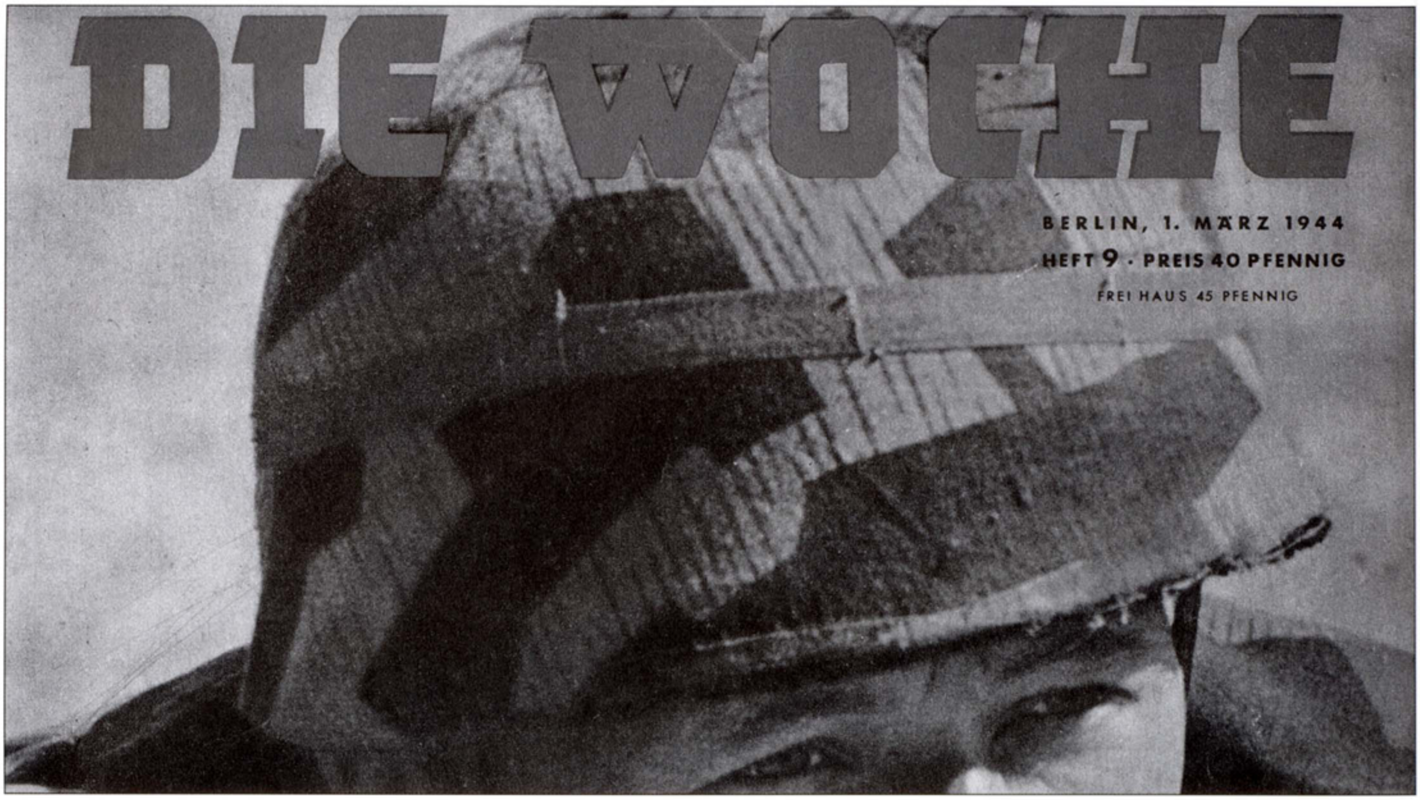


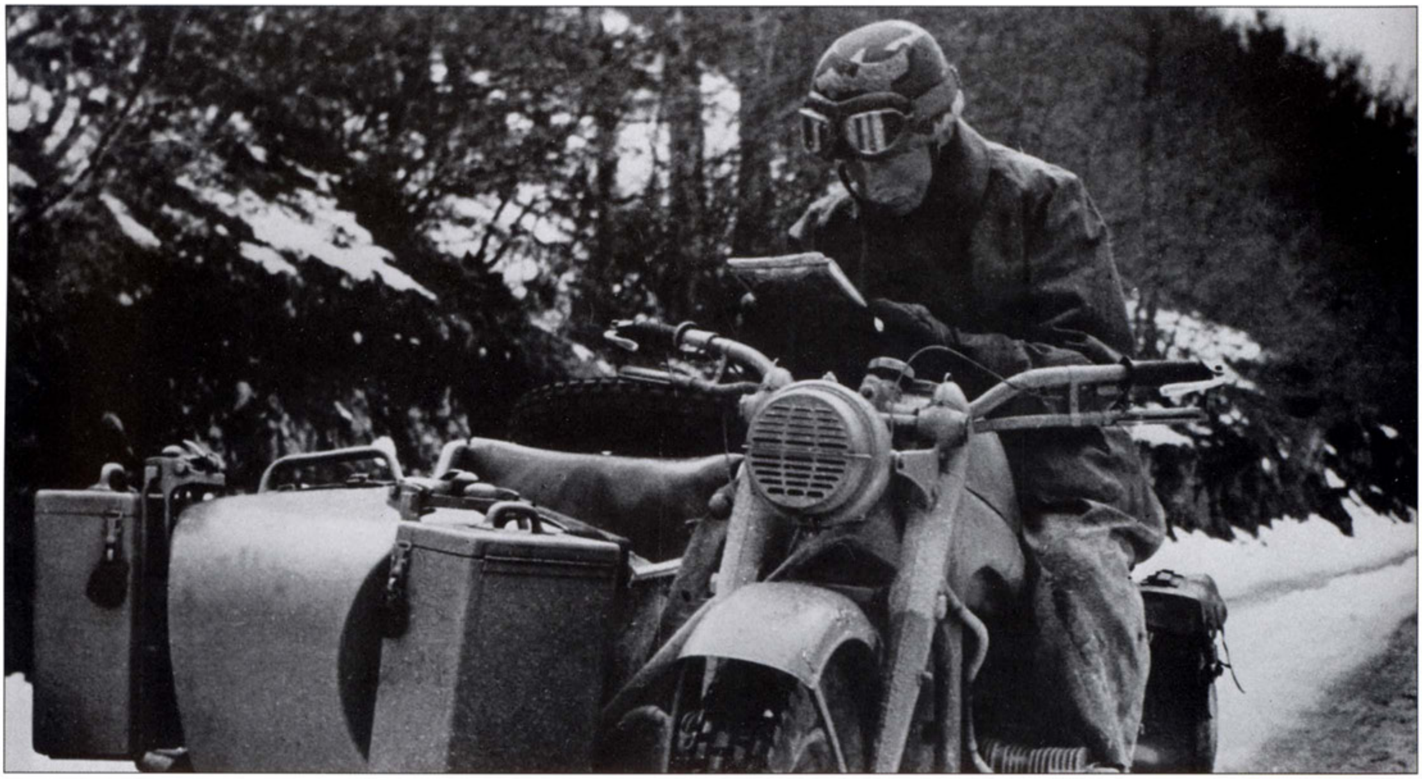
Top: Another early USSR campaign photograph, showing Waffen-SS men with correspondingly early covers. *(Author)*

Bottom: A dead Herman Göring Division man in Italy with Waffen-SS camouflage smock and upturned tan-painted helmet with Waffen-SS three-clip cover attached. (Note that the helmet has also been painted inside.) *(Author)*



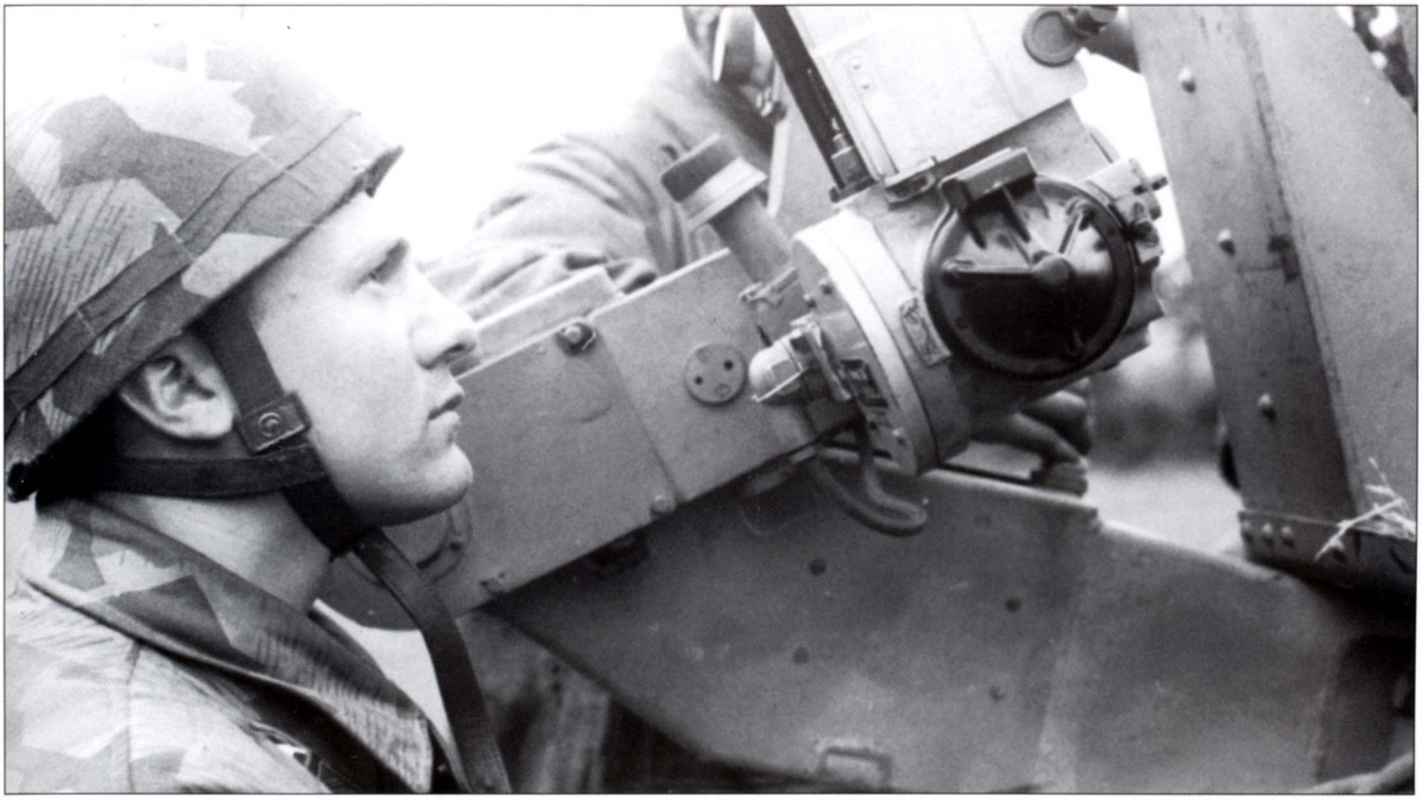
An army NCO with an early grey-green *Fallschirmjäger* clip-on cloth cover stretched over an M42 helmet rather than the usual smaller M38. *(BA)*

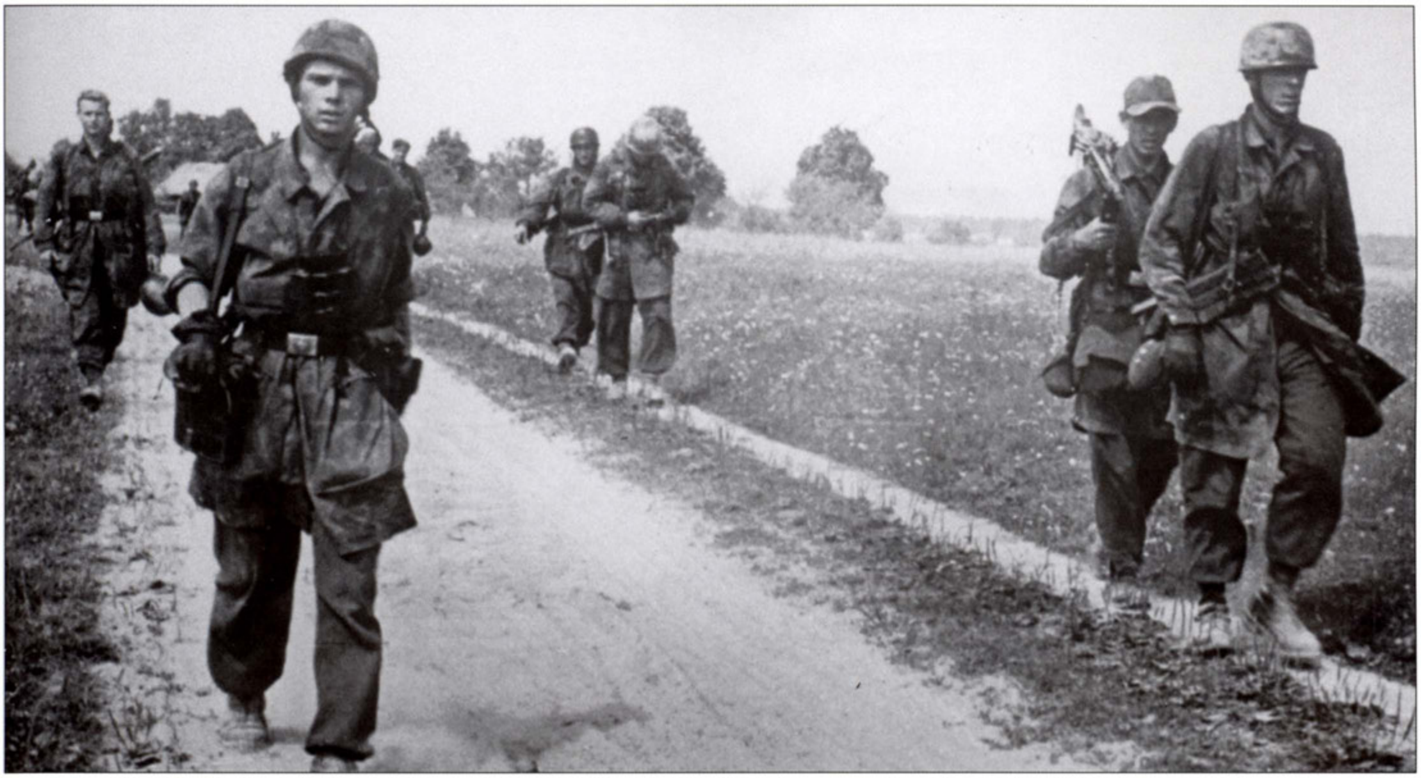

DIE WOCHE
BERLIN, 1. MÄRZ 1944
HEFT 9 · PREIS 40 PFENNIG
FREI HAUS 45 PFENNIG



■ Top: The regulation splinter pattern drawstring-cover for the *Fallschirmjäger* M38 helmet. *(Author)*

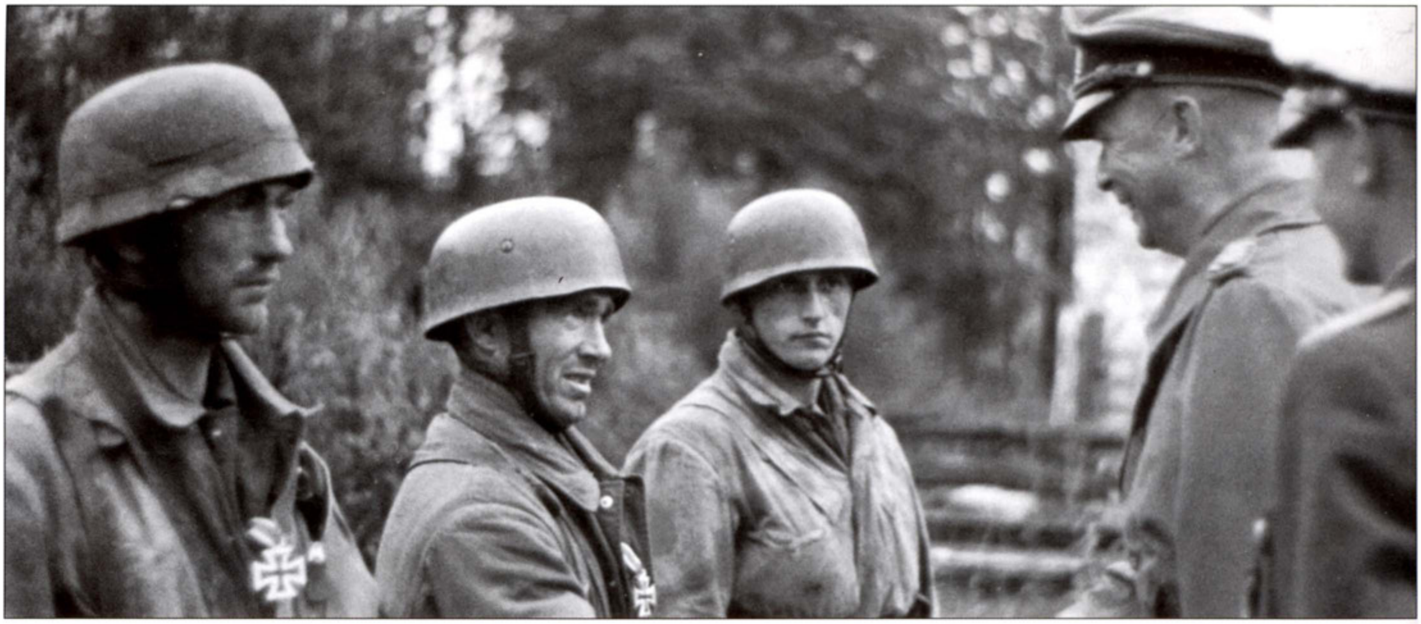
■ Bottom: Another view, this time with motorcyclist's goggles. *(Author)*

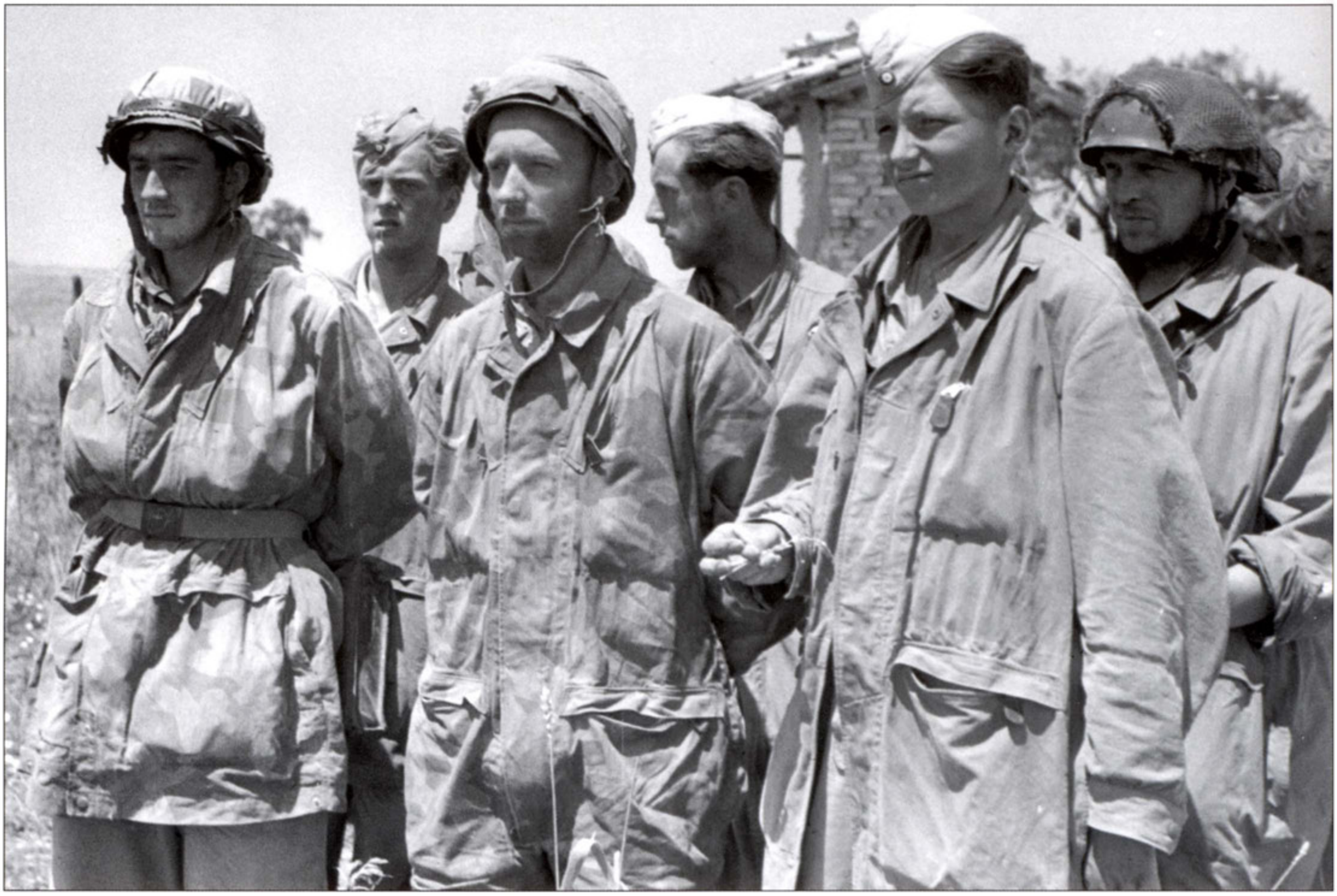




■ Top: The regulation drawstring M38 splinter pattern cover, worn here by an anti-aircraft gunner. *(BA)*

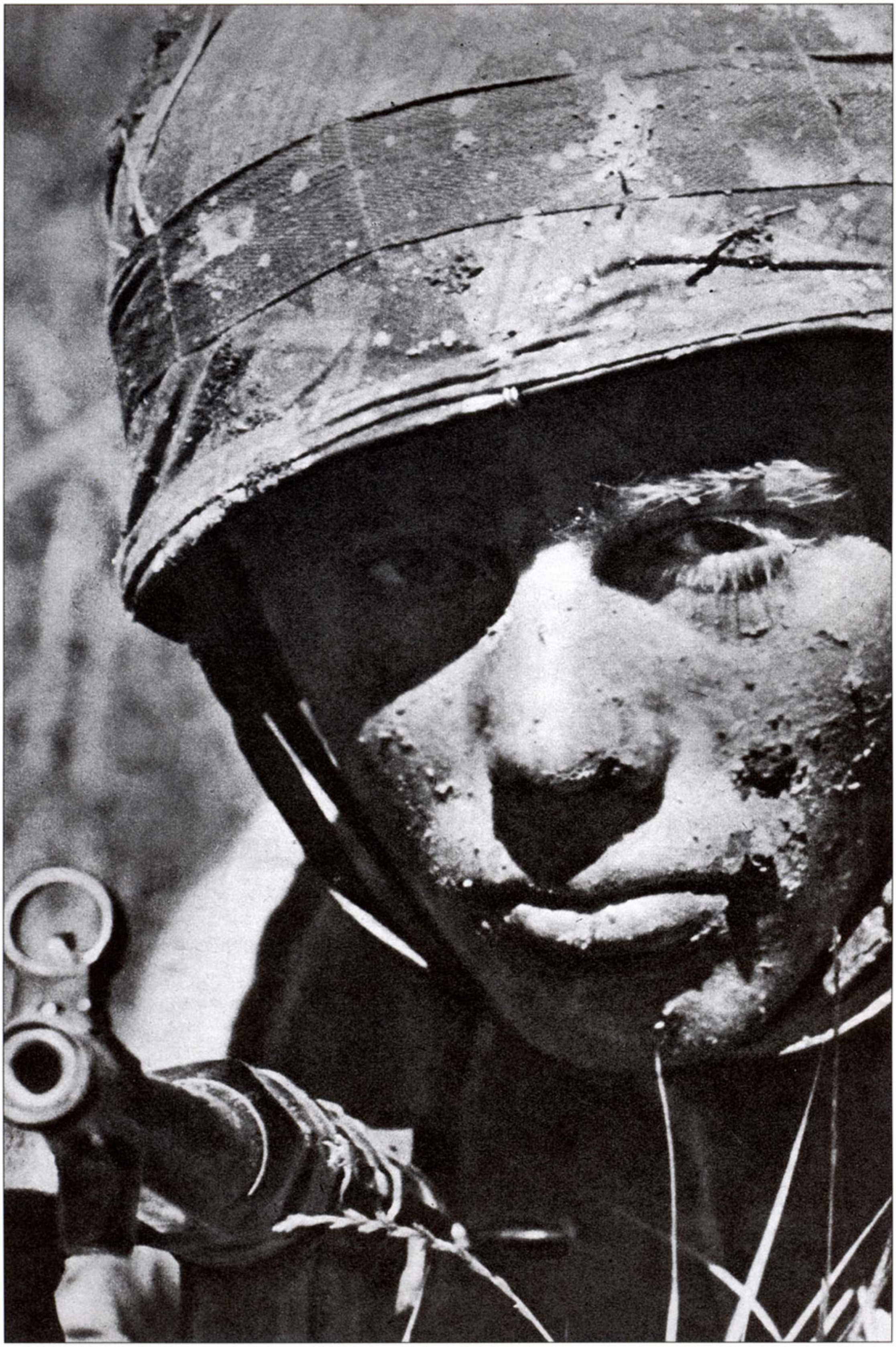
■ Bottom: Waffen-SS *Fallschirmjäger* in Lithuania in August 1944, wearing the drawstring splinter pattern cover. *(Author)*



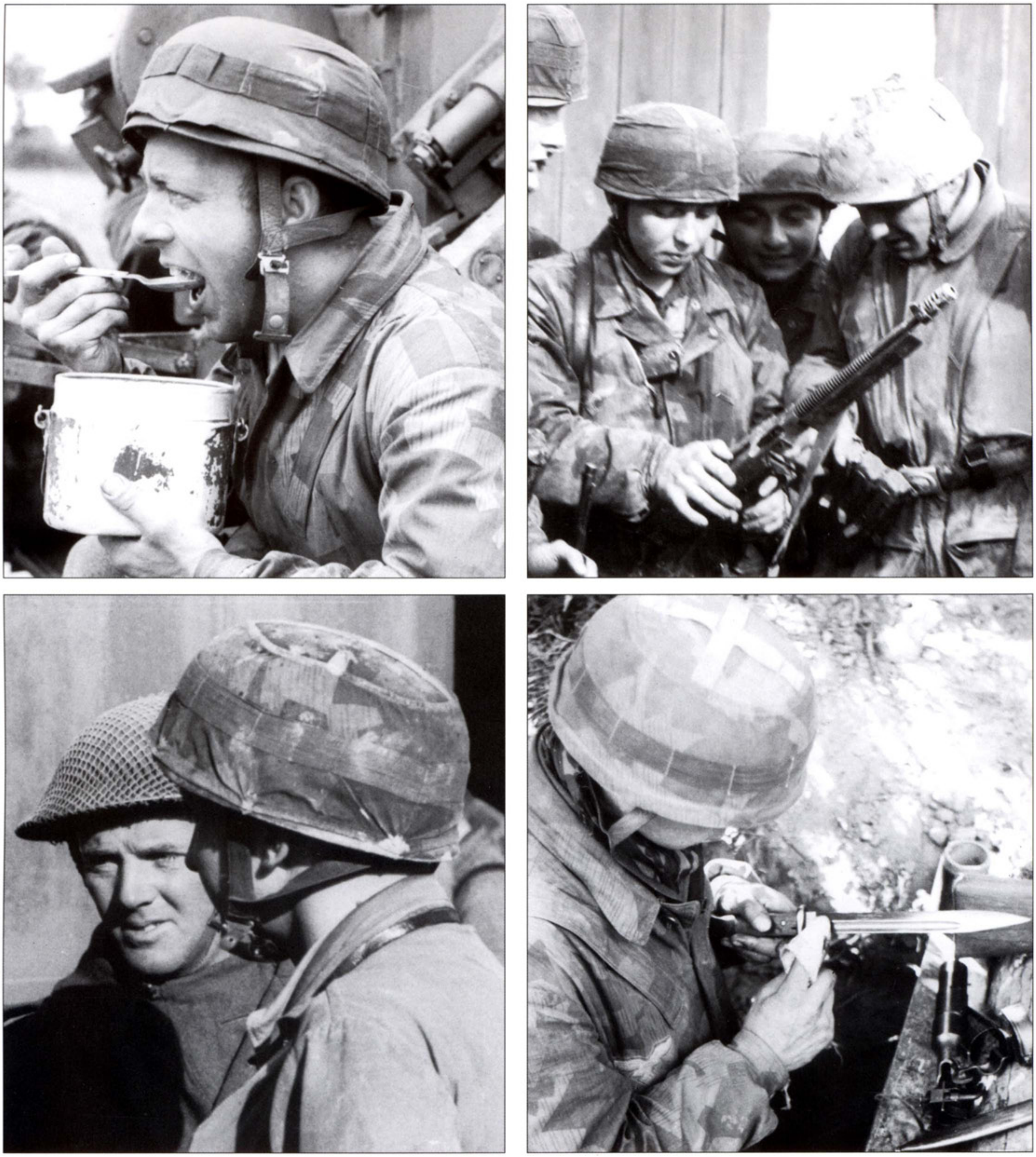


Top: Officers decorating *Fallschirmjäger* in October 1944. The man on the left is wearing the regulation splinter pattern drawstring cover. *(Author)*

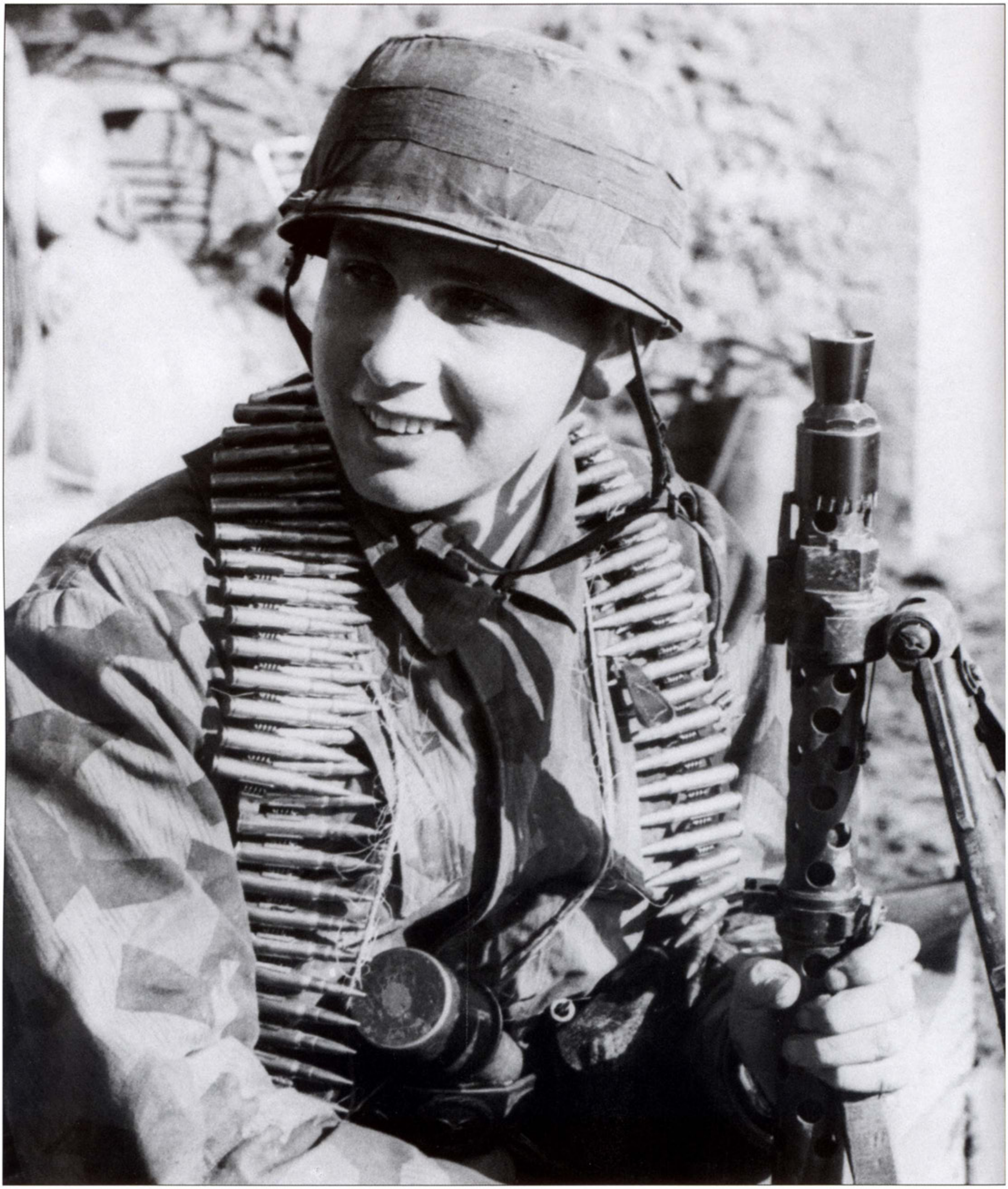
Bottom: Captured near Cassino, these *Fallschirmjäger* are wearing an assortment of covers. On the left, a home-made version with camouflage material held in place by a leather strap; in the middle, a regulation clip-on version; and at right rear, a captured British netting cover. *(IWM)*



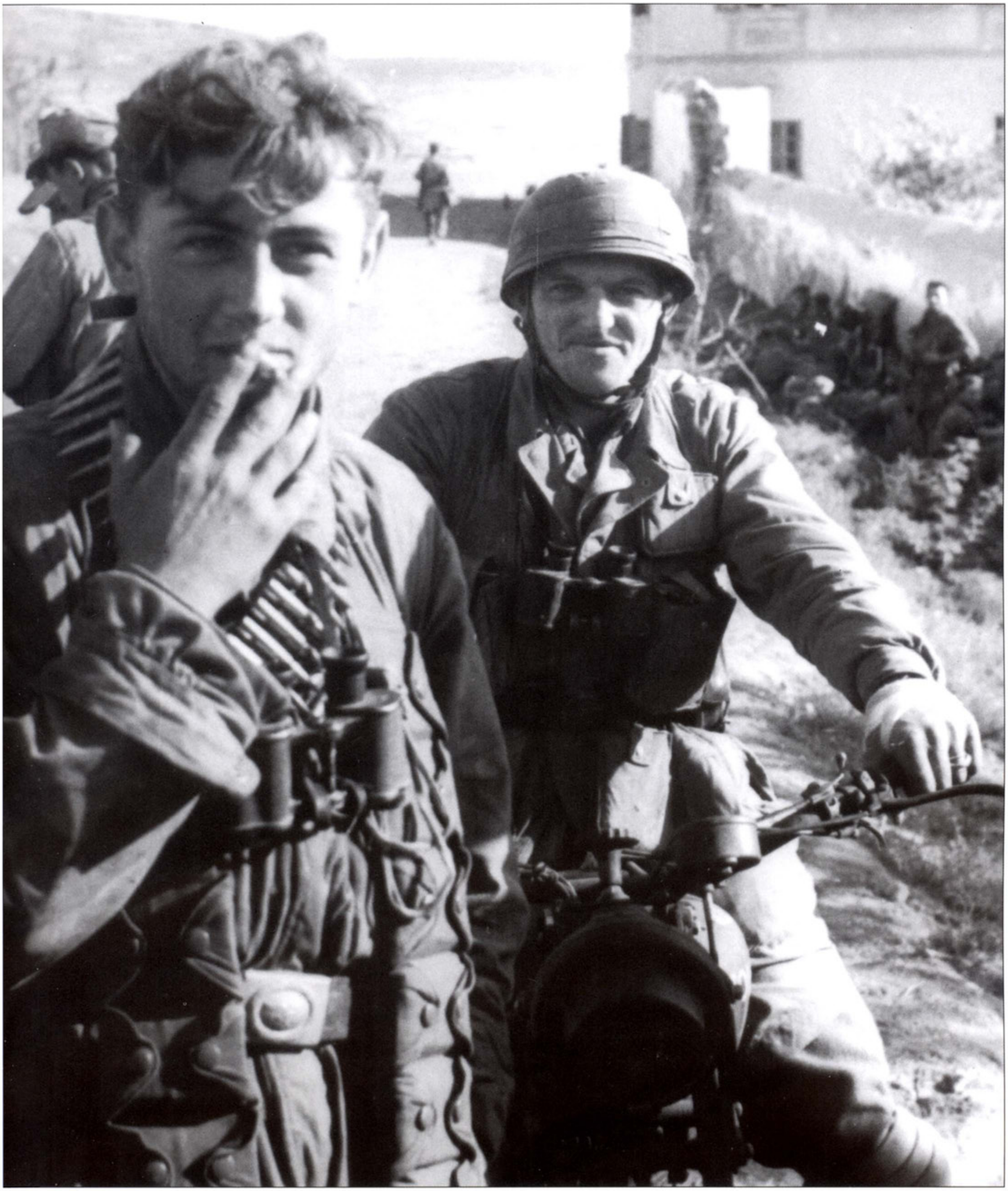
A close-up view of the regulation *Fallschirmjäger* clip-on splinter pattern cover. *(Author)*



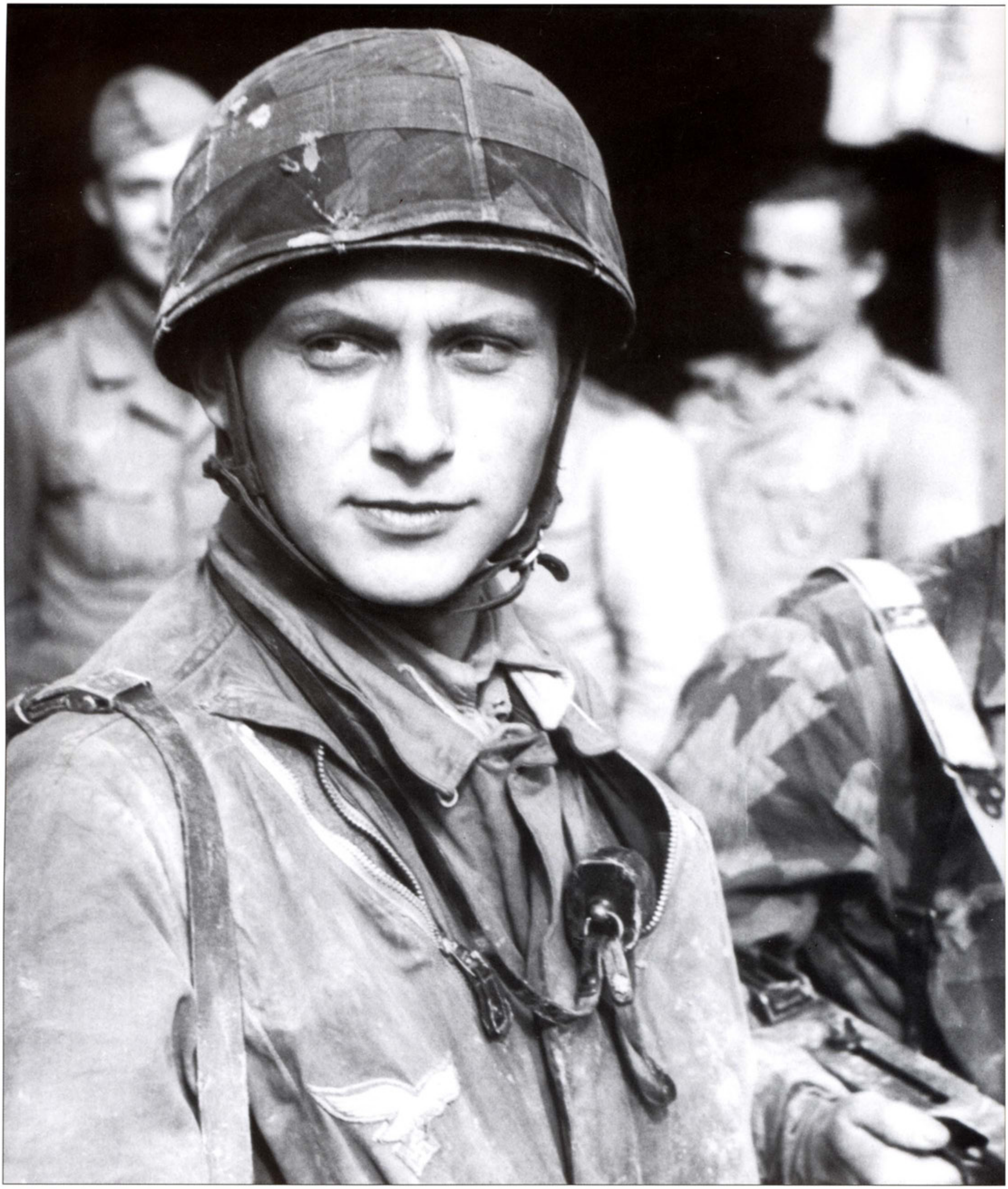
More examples of the regulation clip-on cover. *(BA)*



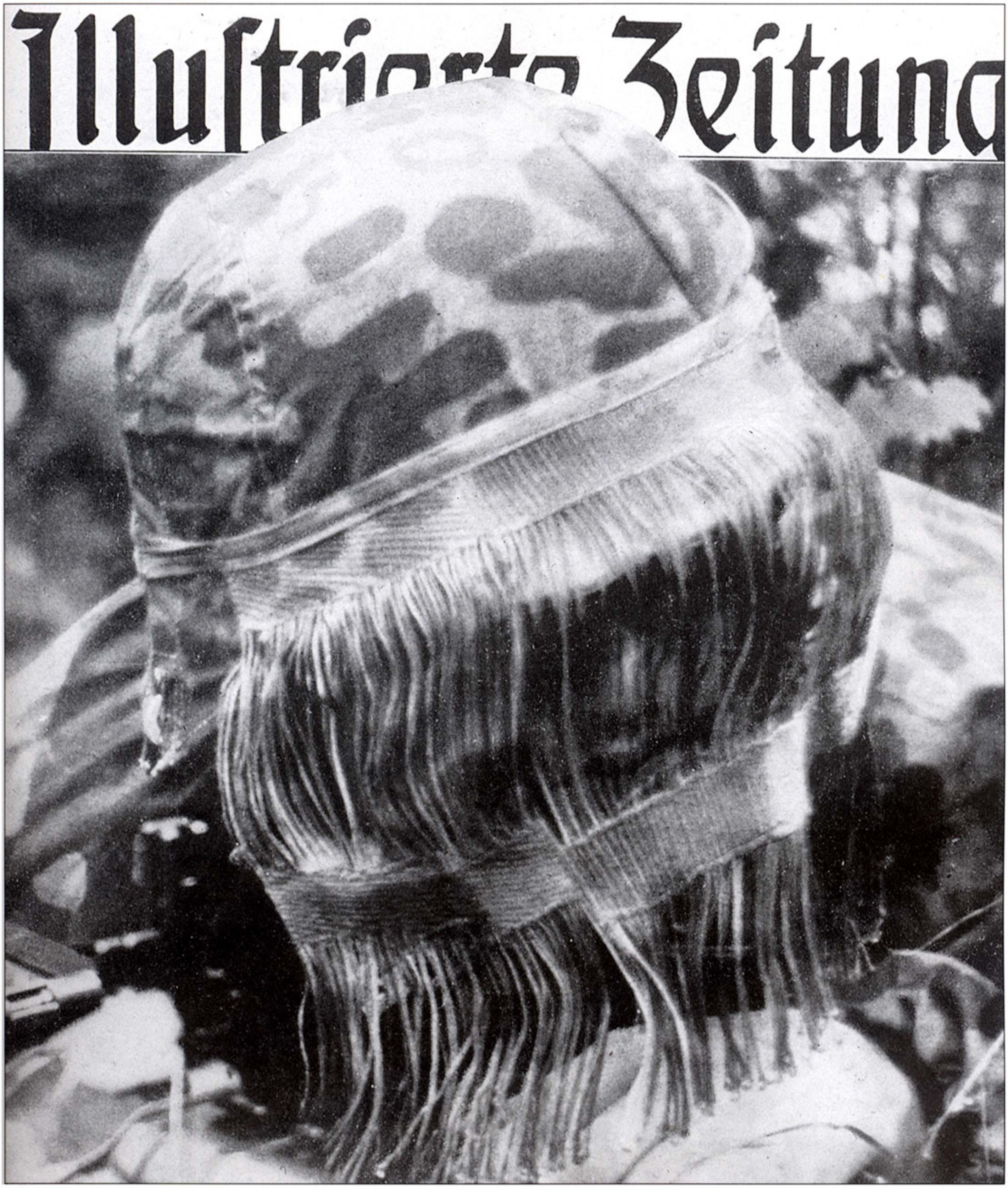
■ A study of the same *Fallschirmjäger*. (BA)



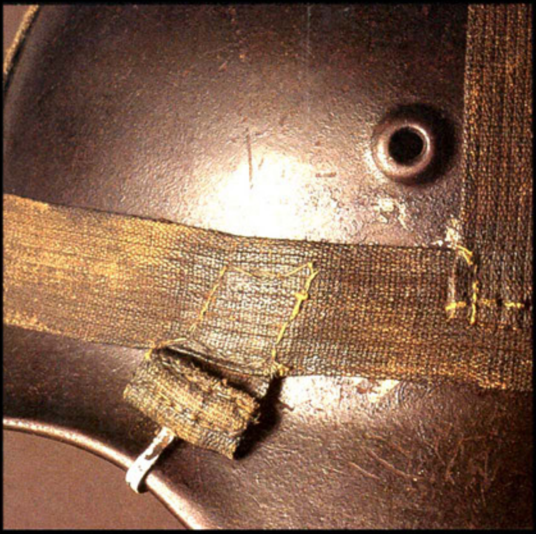
■ *Fallschirmjäger* on Crete. The motorcyclist wears the early pattern clip-on cover in plain grey-green. *(BA)*



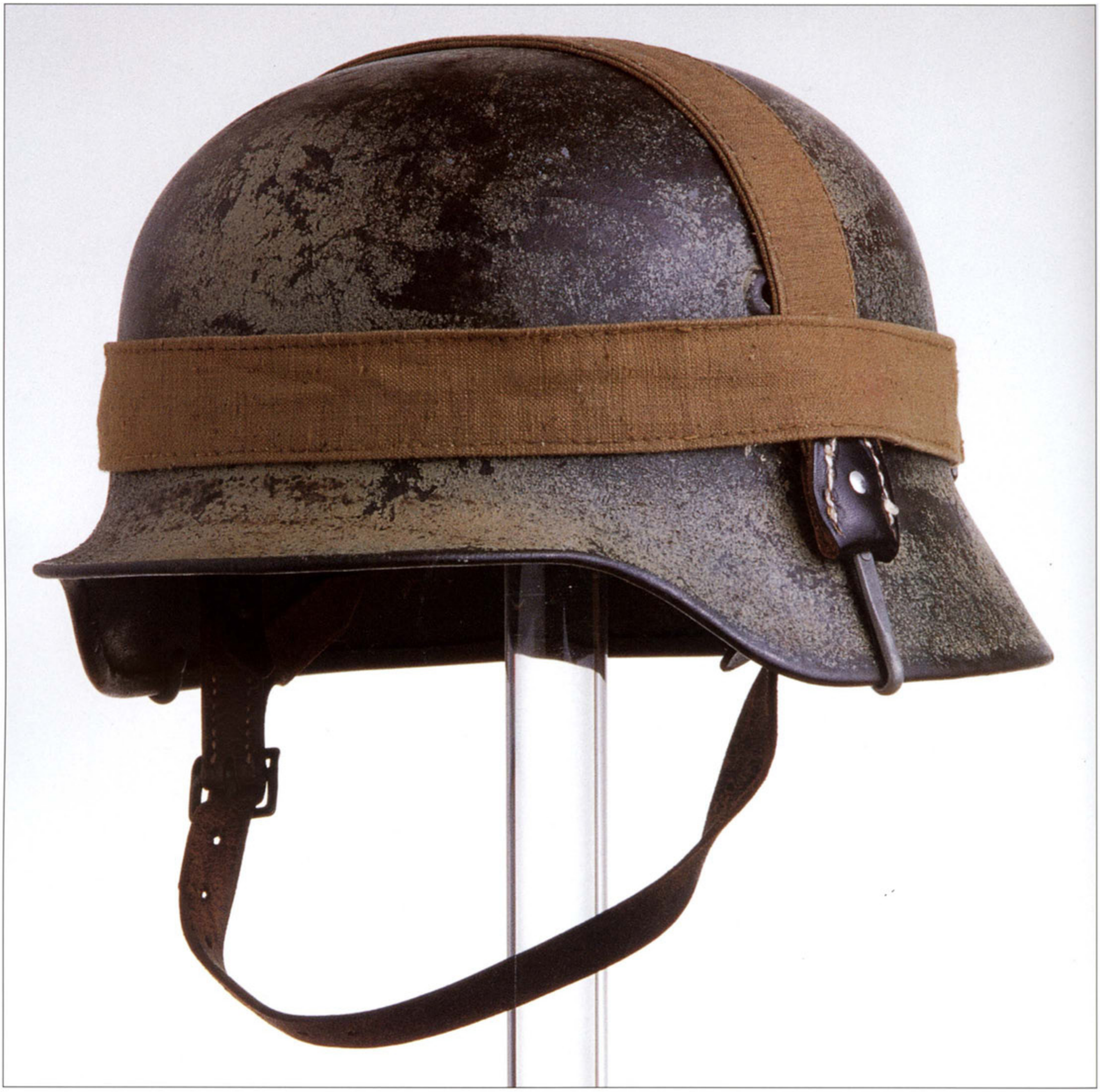
A *Fallschirmjäger* wearing his regulation clip-on cover. He seems to have a flare pistol on a lanyard tucked into his early grey-green jump smock. *(BA)*


Illuſtrierte Zeitung

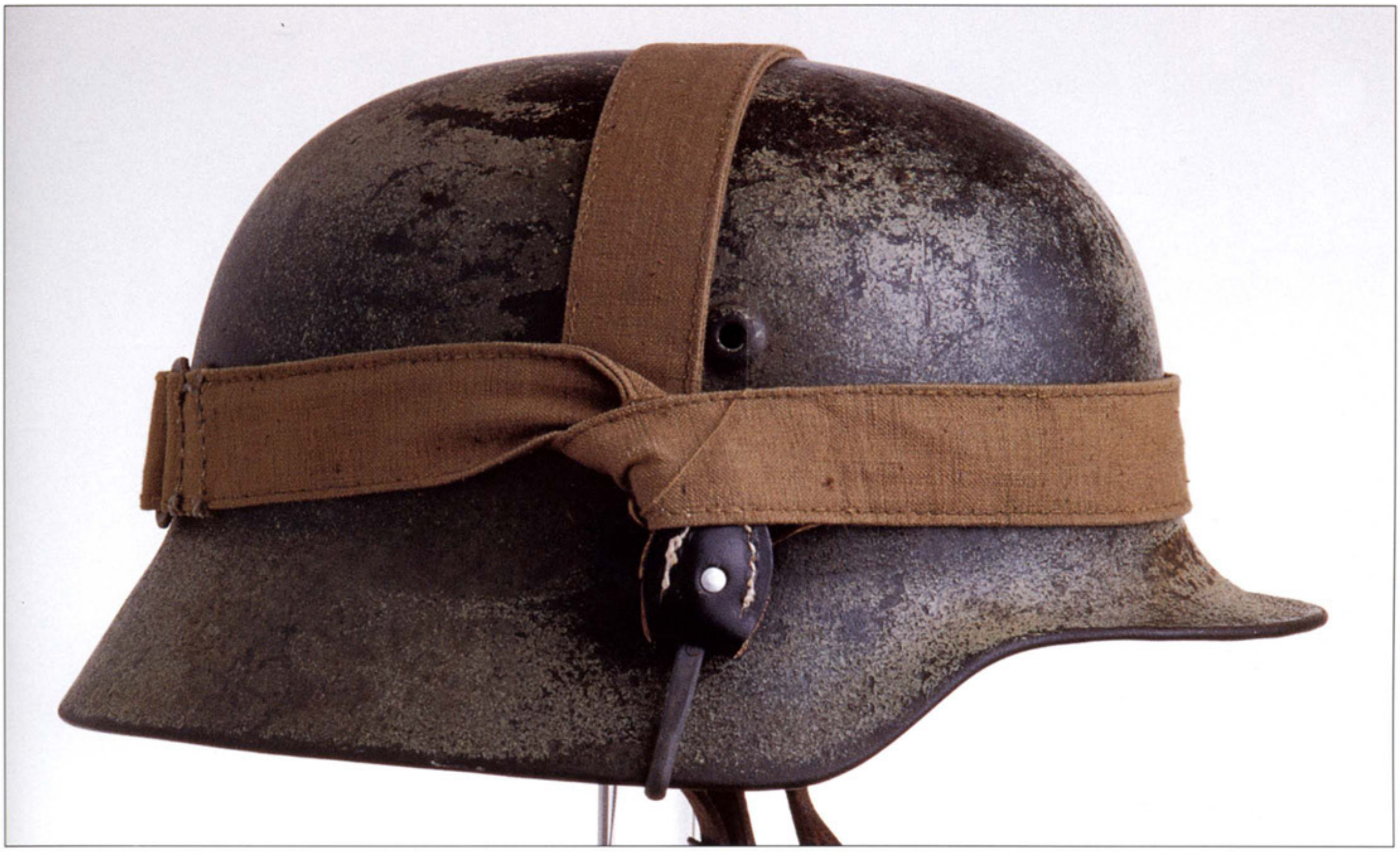
A Waffen-SS man wearing a regulation camouflage faceveil over his early pattern clip-on cover. *(Barry Smith)*

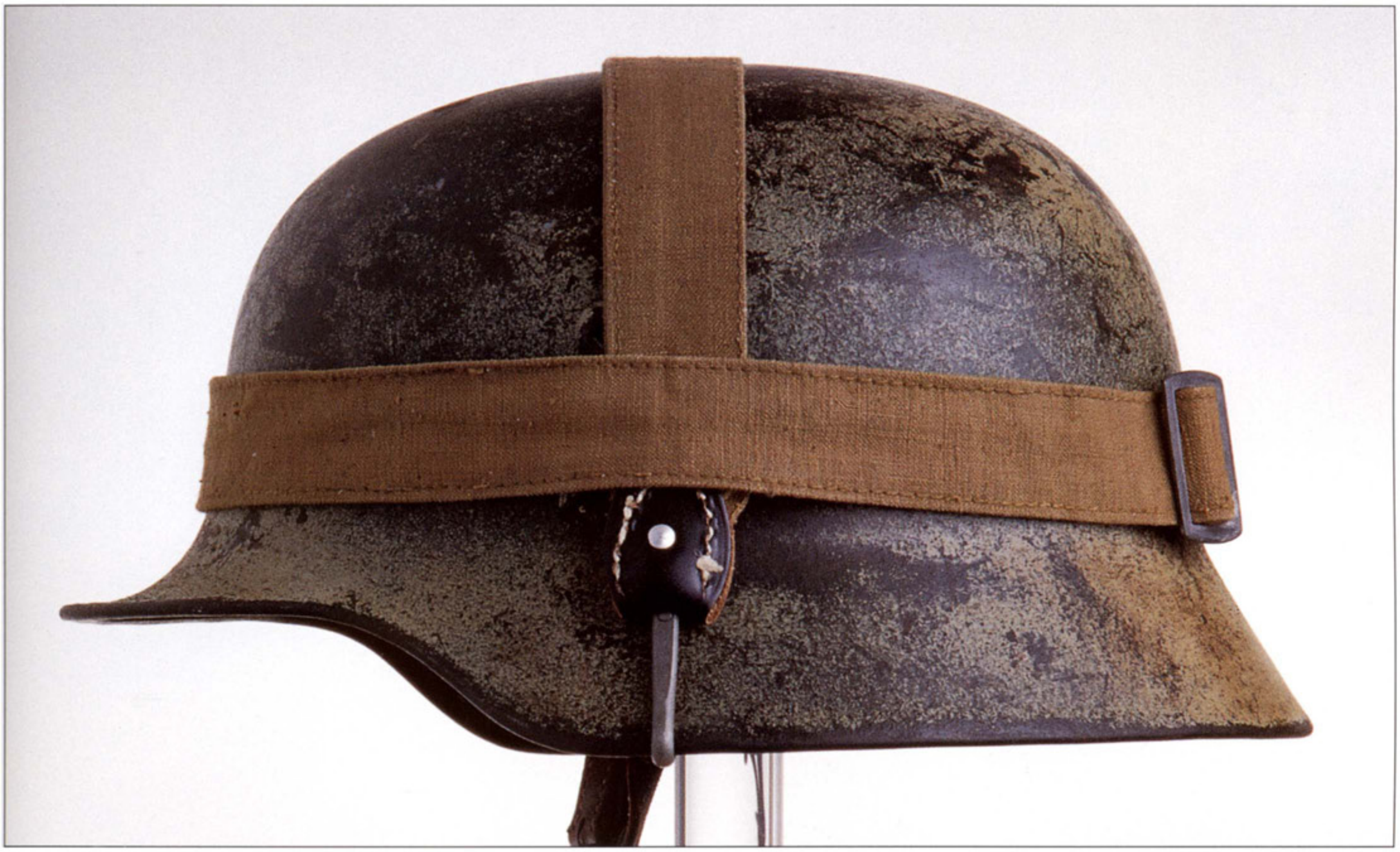


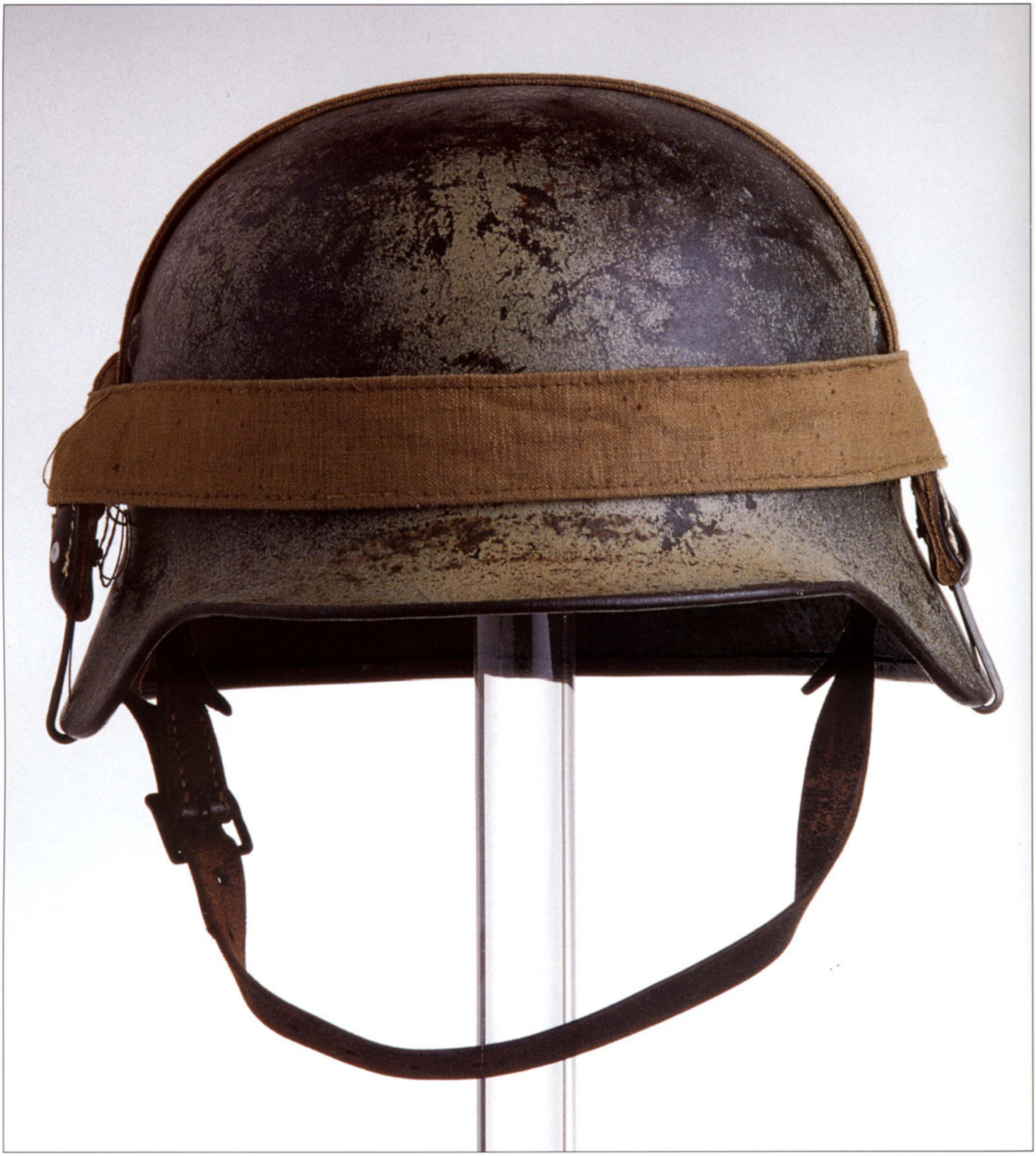
Chapter Six: Straps

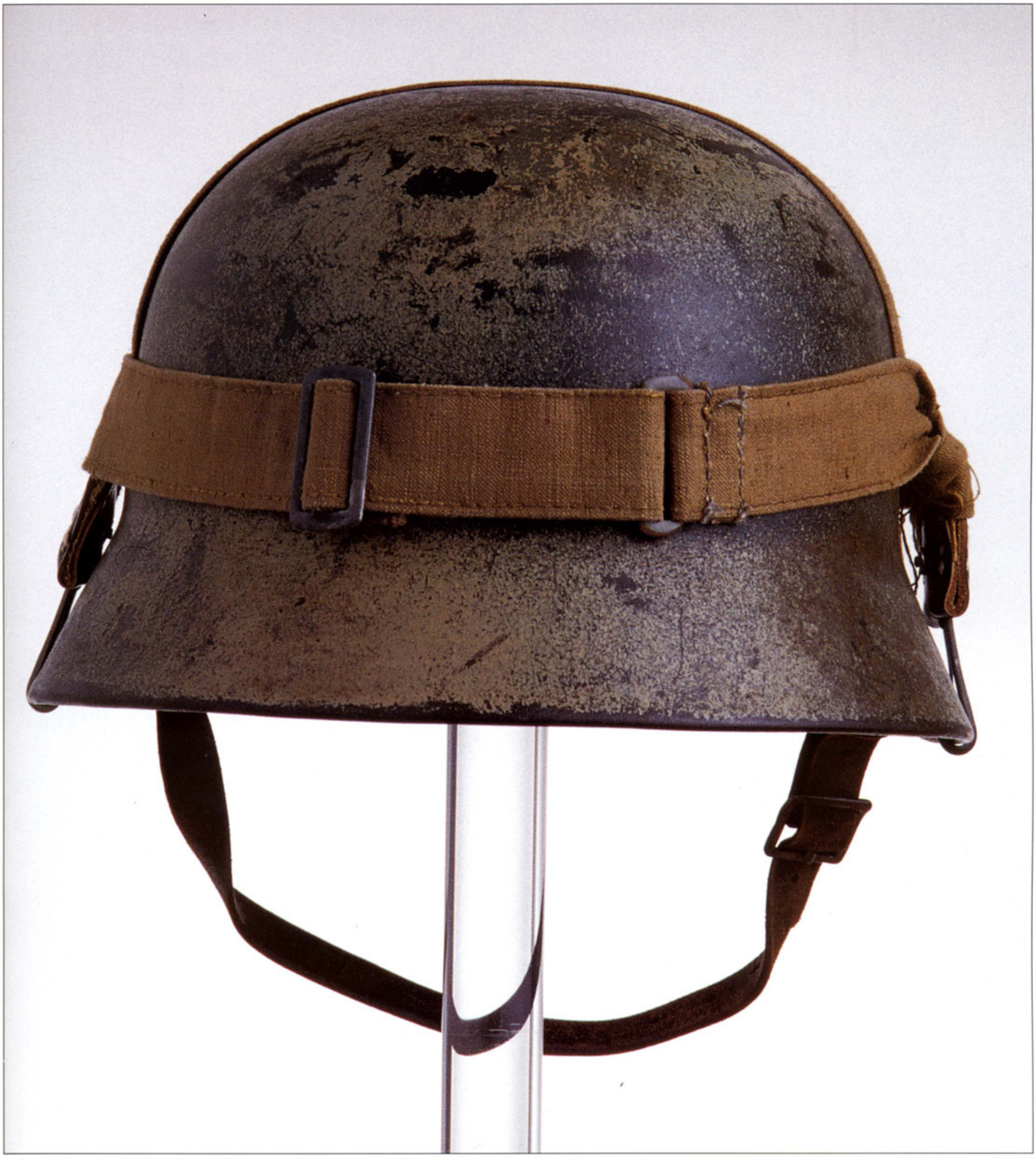


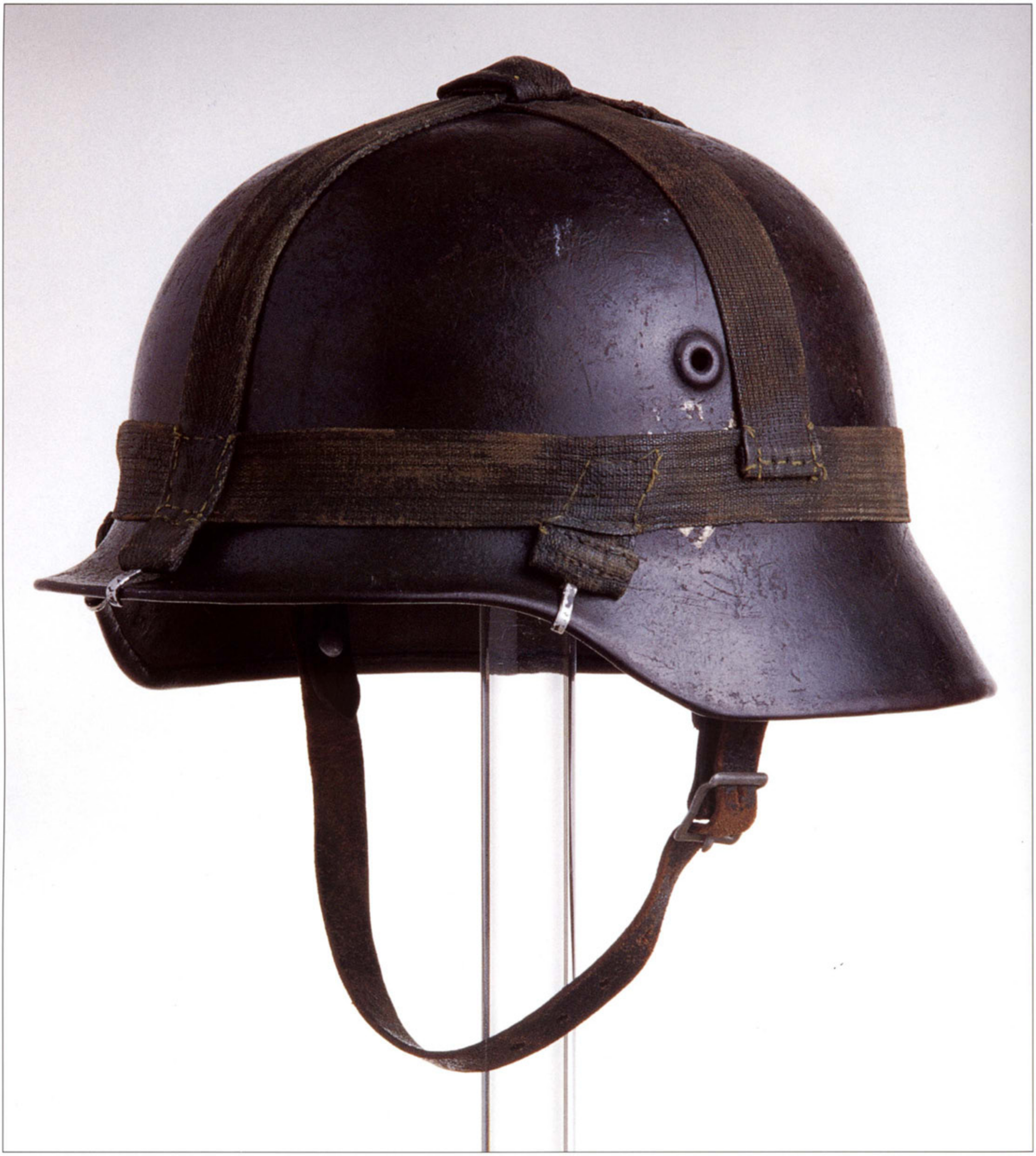
M35, over-painted in tan and with a bread bag strap wound around and across the shell and clipped under the rim. This helmet was picked up in 1945 by veteran Lt. Mark Blankfield, USMS, near Antwerp, Belgium. (Collection of David Asselin)



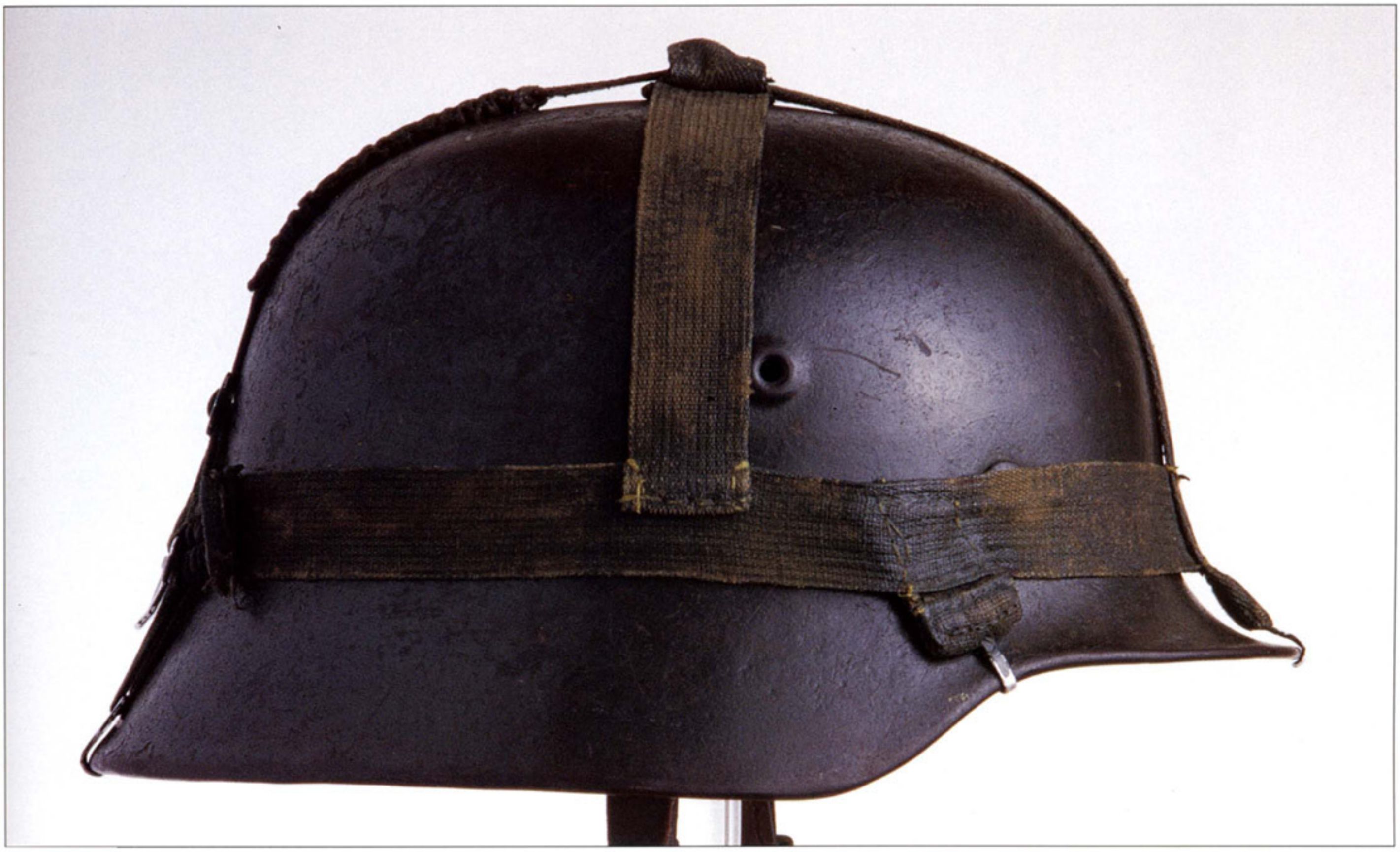


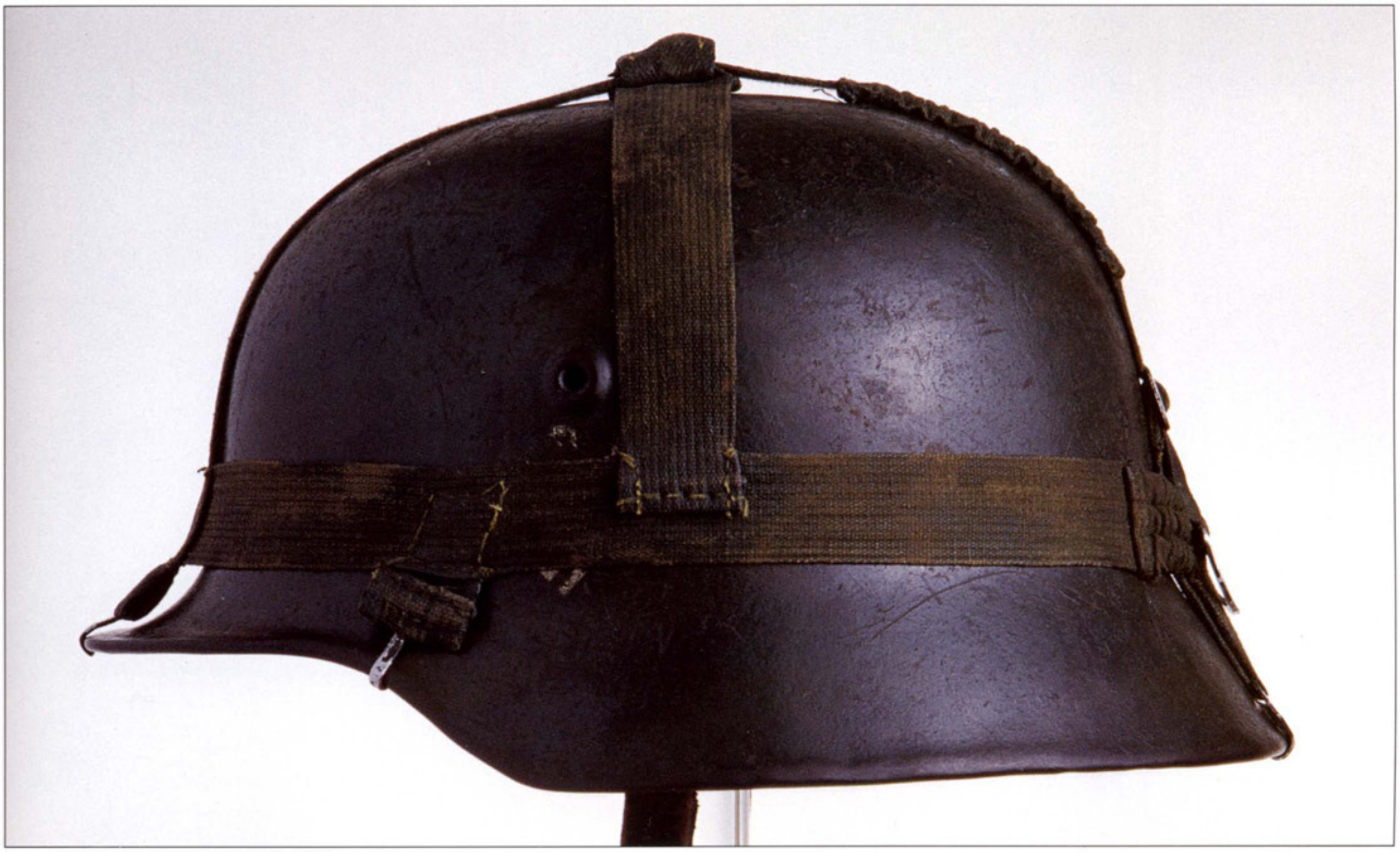


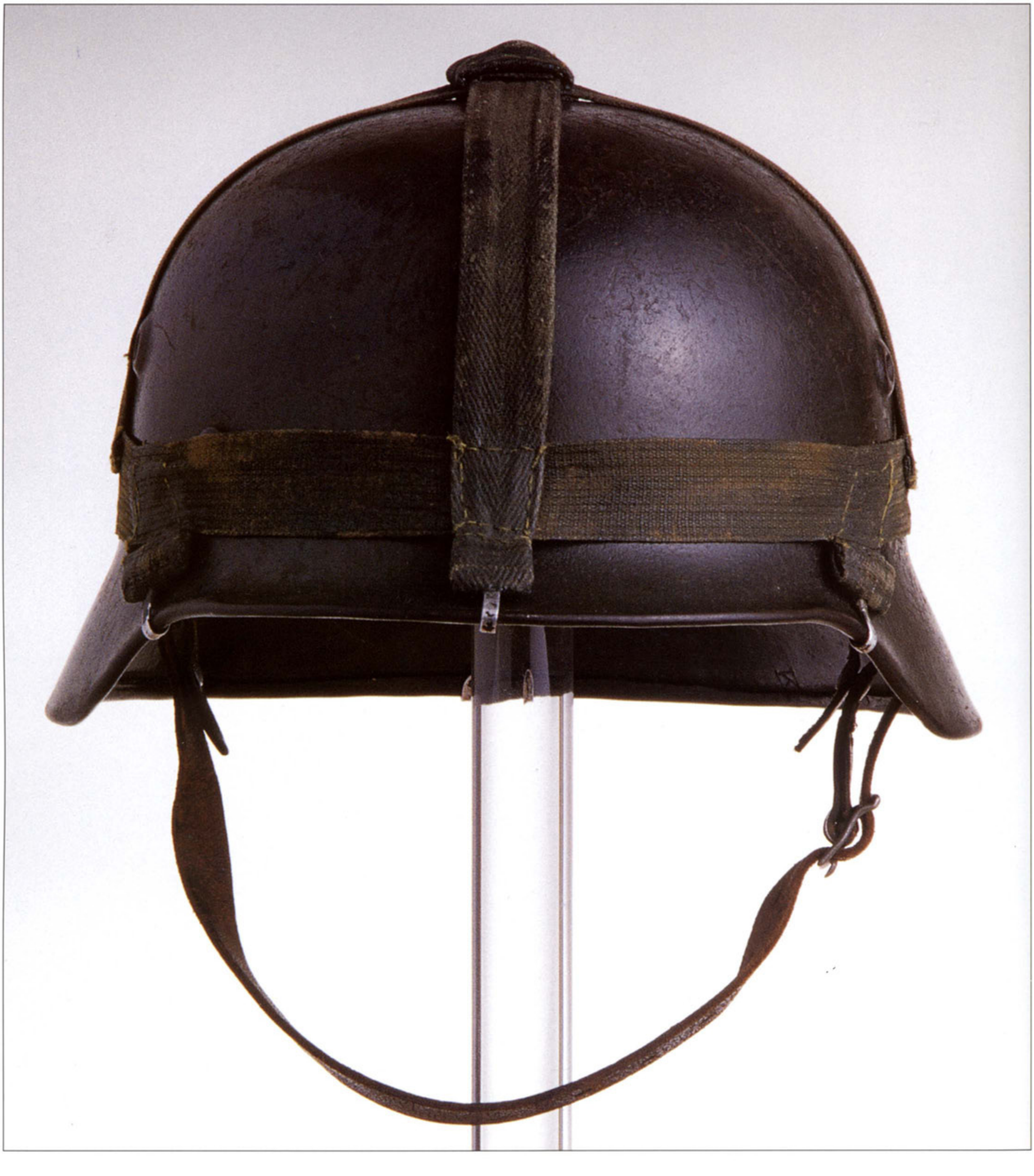


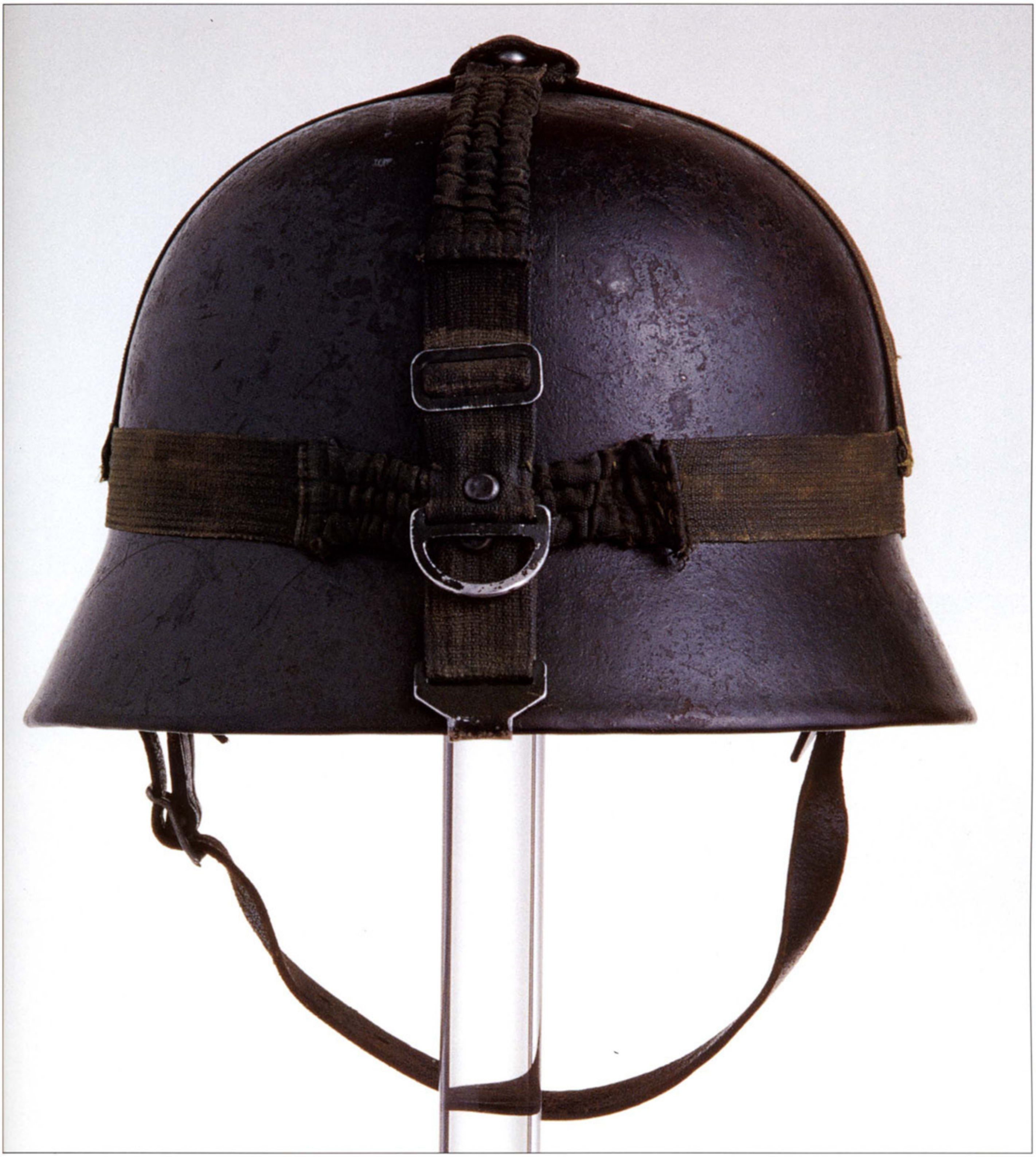


■ M40, with Wehrmacht eagle insignia with an unusual modified gas mask strap configuration attached to the rim by aluminium hooks. (Collection of David Asselin)

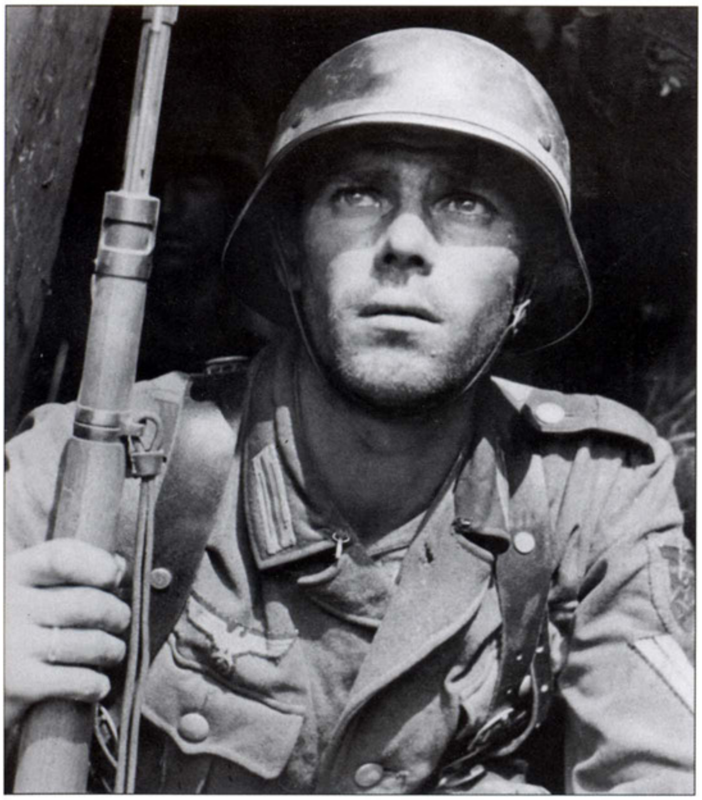


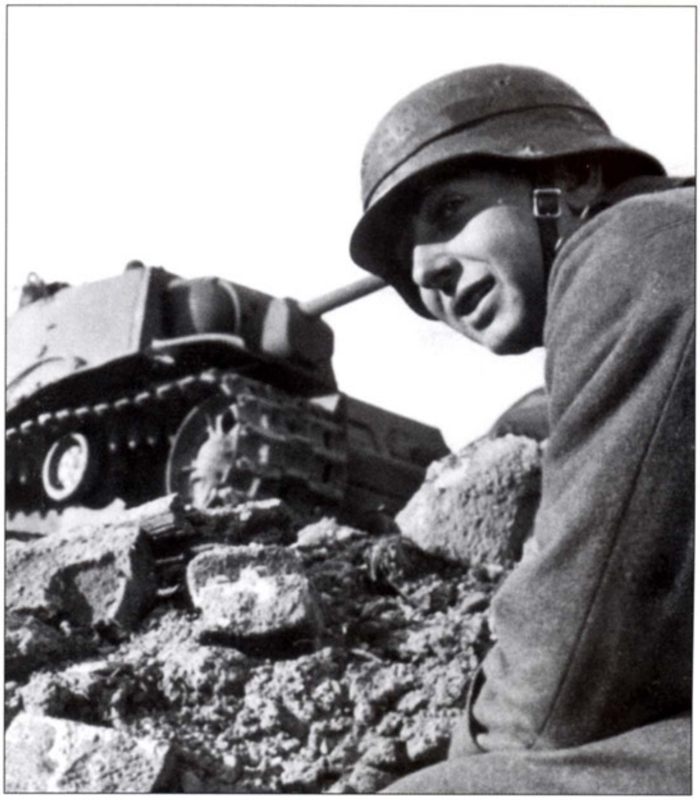


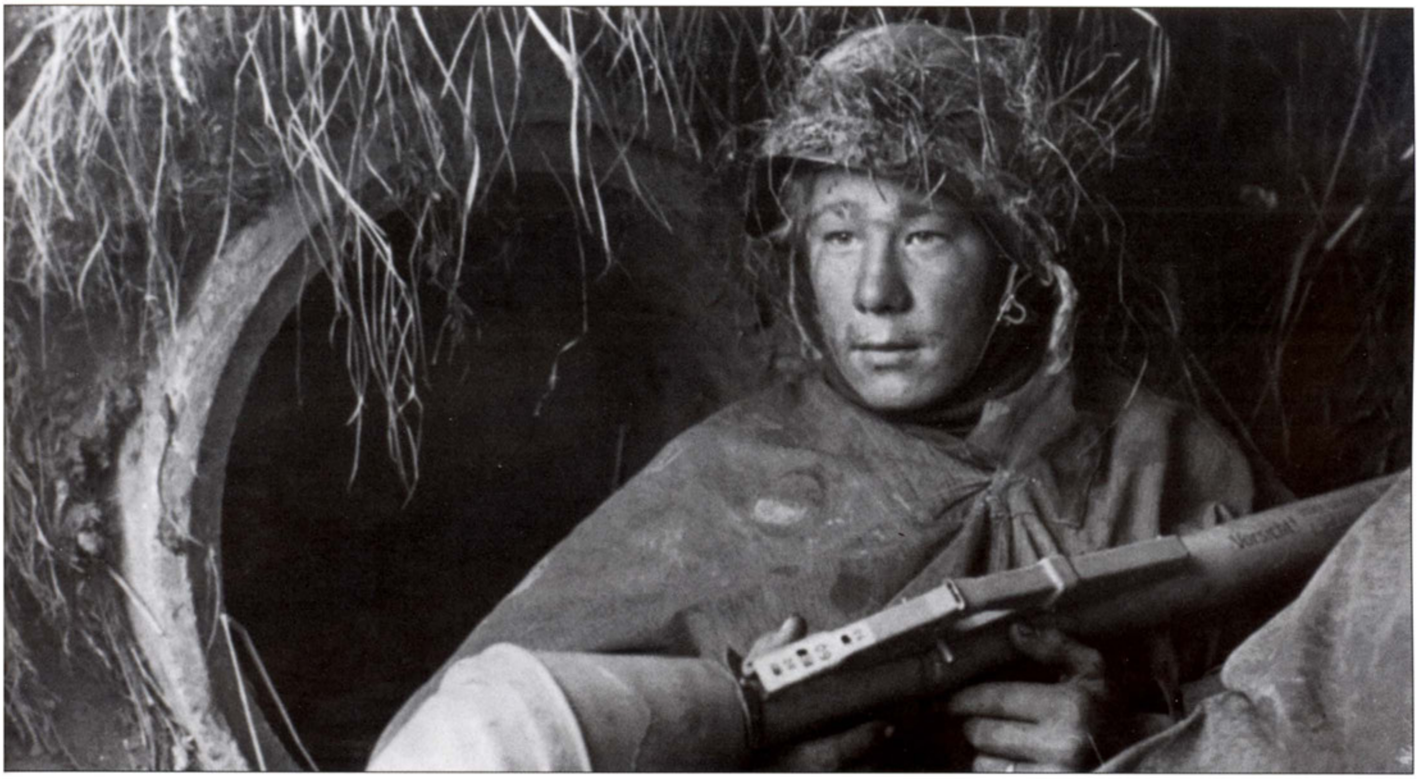




Period Photos



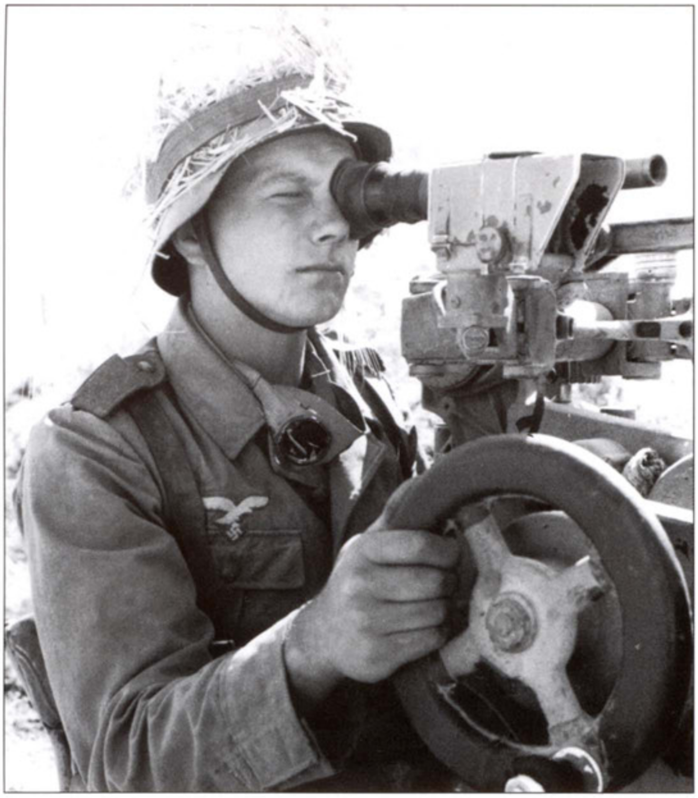


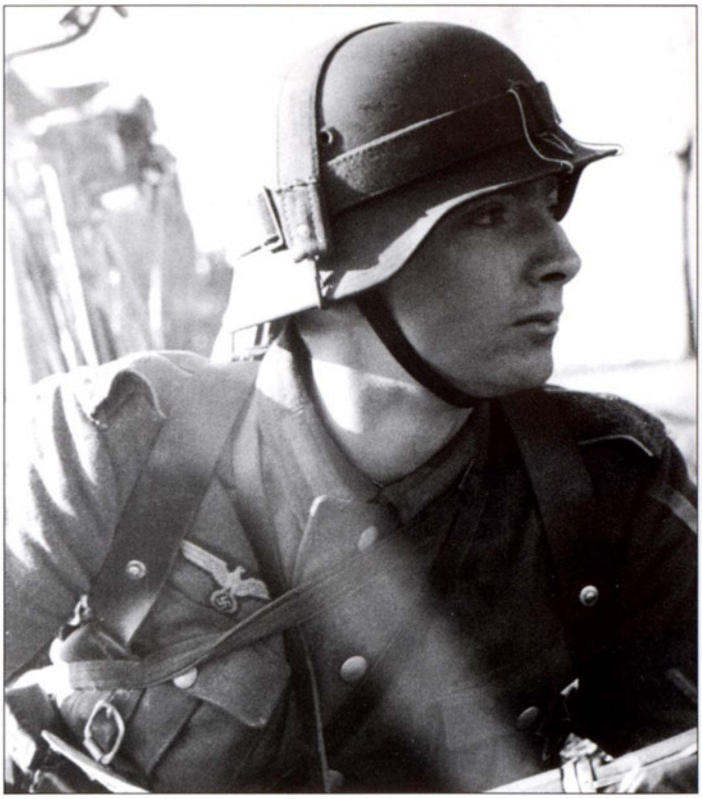


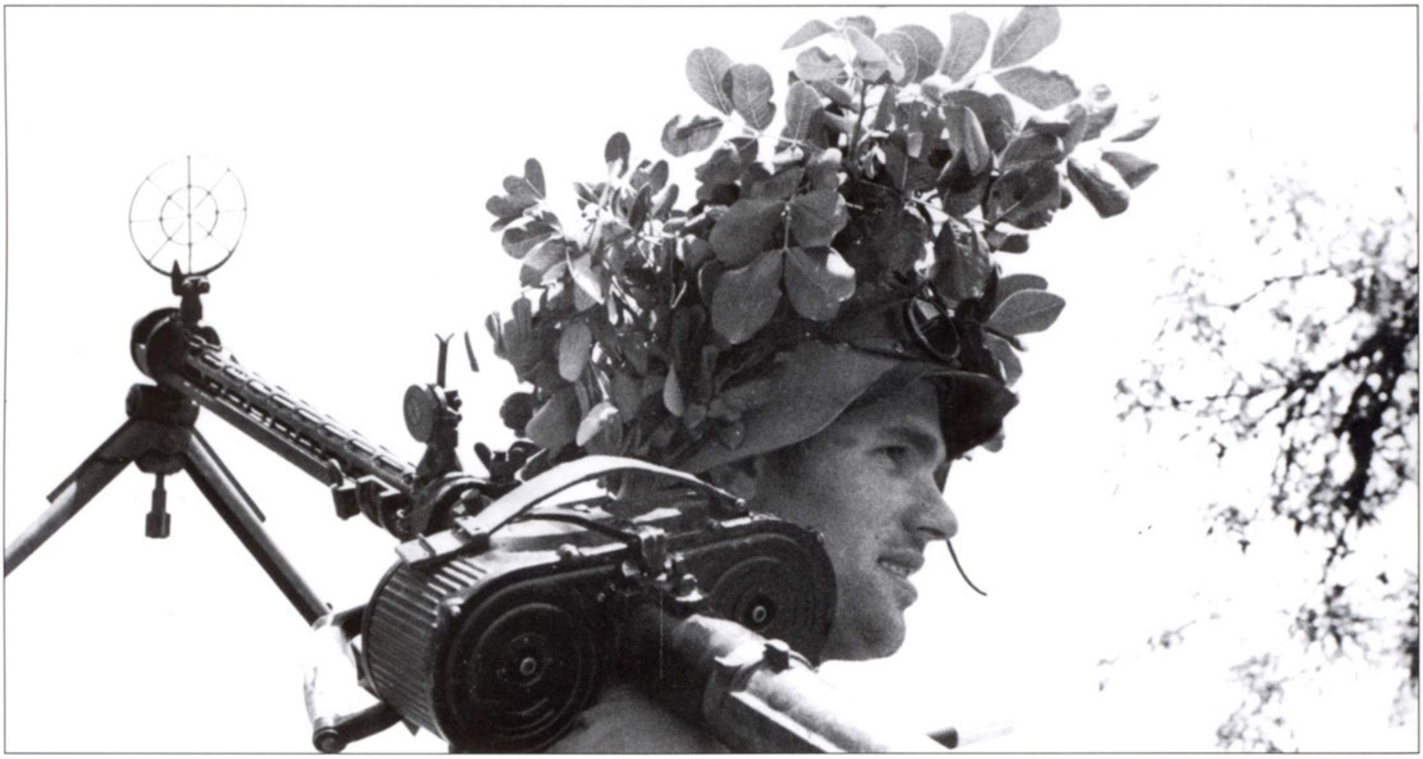
- Top left: Photographed in October 1943, a Crimean campaign veteran with a strip of car inner-tube rubber stretched around his M35/M40 helmet.*(BA)*

- Top right: Taken in October 1941, another example of the rubber inner-tube being worn. *(BA)*

- Bottom: A soldier with *panzerfaust* takes a rest in a ditch, in northwest Europe in October 1944. The foliage is held in place on his M35/M40 by winding a length of string around the shell. *(Author)*



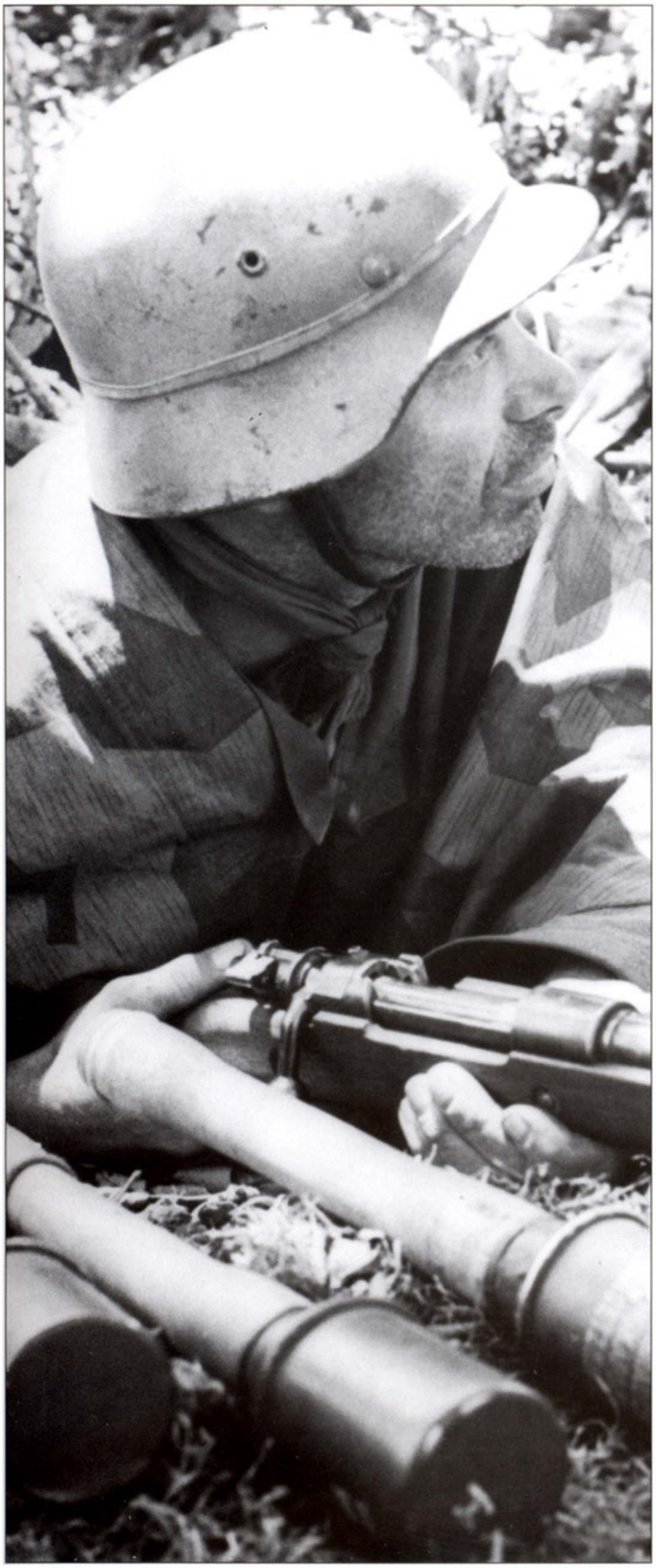




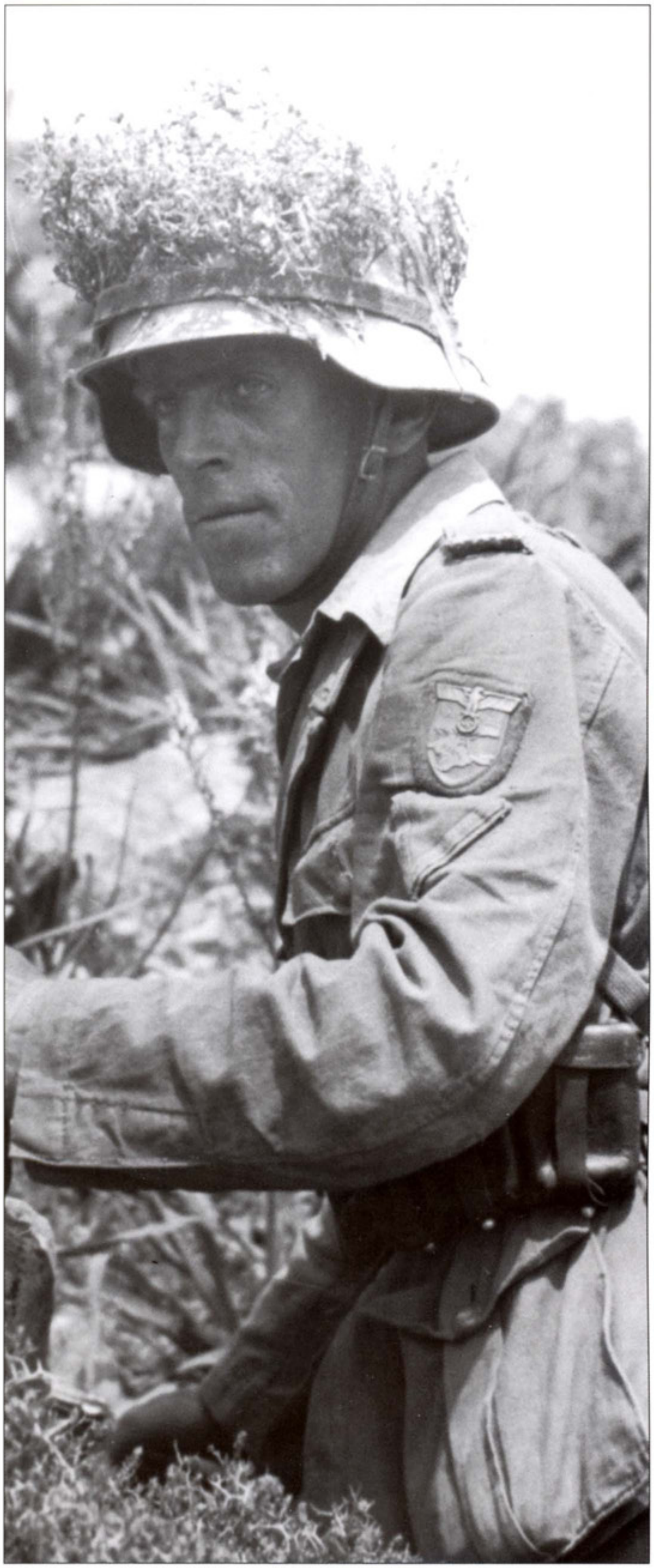
■ Top left: This anti-aircraft gunner in North Africa has painted his M35/M40 in tan and has affixed dry grass to his helmet under a cloth strap around the helmet. *(BA)*

■ Top right: The typical configuration of the bread bag strap over the helmet shell to affix foliage. This man has also used the regulation string netting hooks to help keep the strap in place. *(BA)*

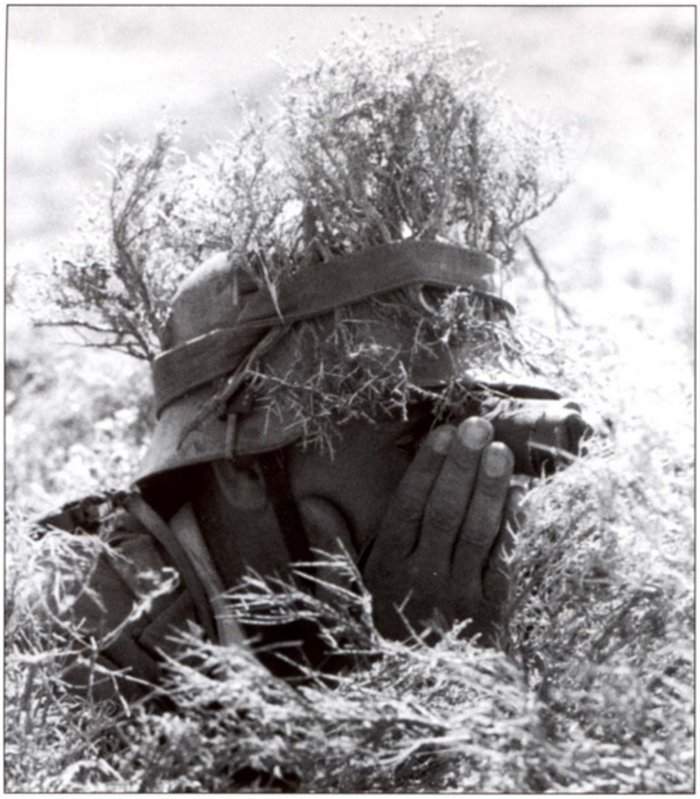
■ Bottom: In North Africa, a man shoulders an MG13. Foliage appears to be held onto the M35/M40 helmet by his goggles. *(Author)*

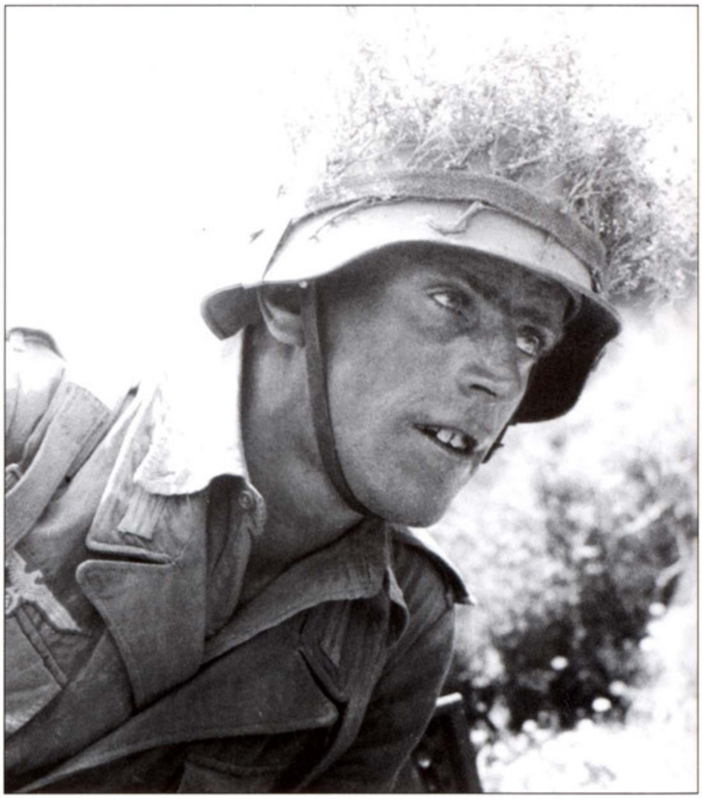


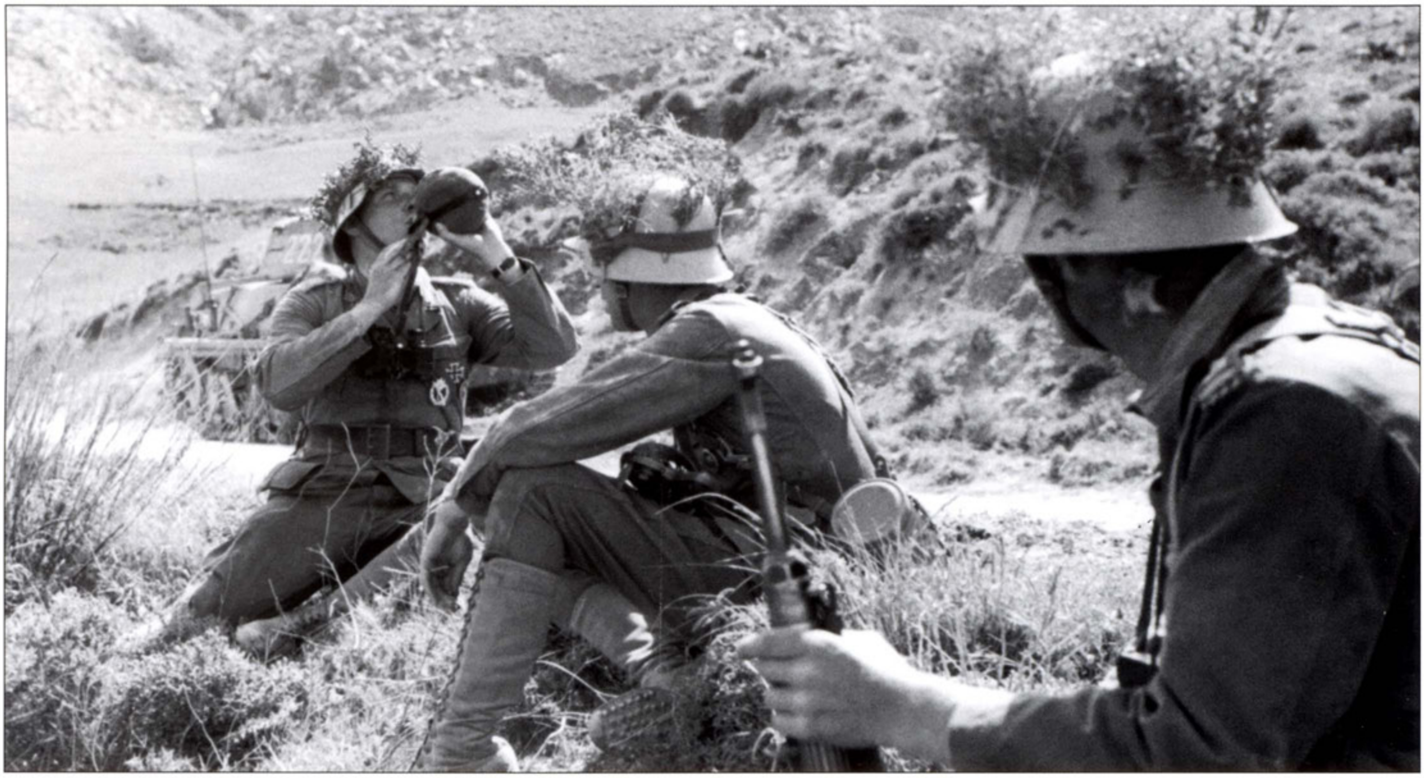
This man's M40 has a light base colour over-sprayed in patches with a slightly darker colour. *(BA)*



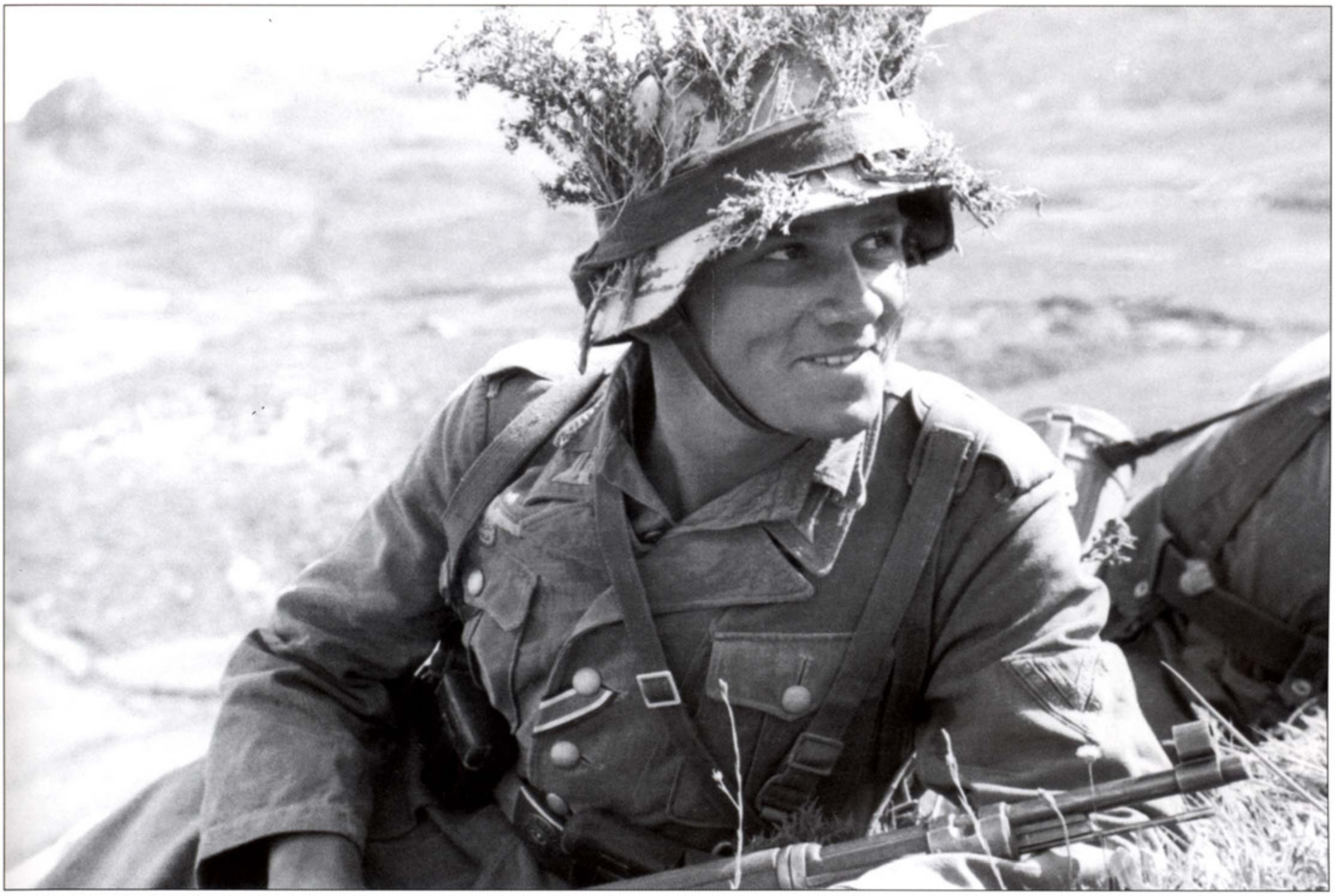
A Crimean veteran in North Africa with a homemade canvas strap and metal clip configuration, holding foliage onto his tan-painted M40. *(BA)*

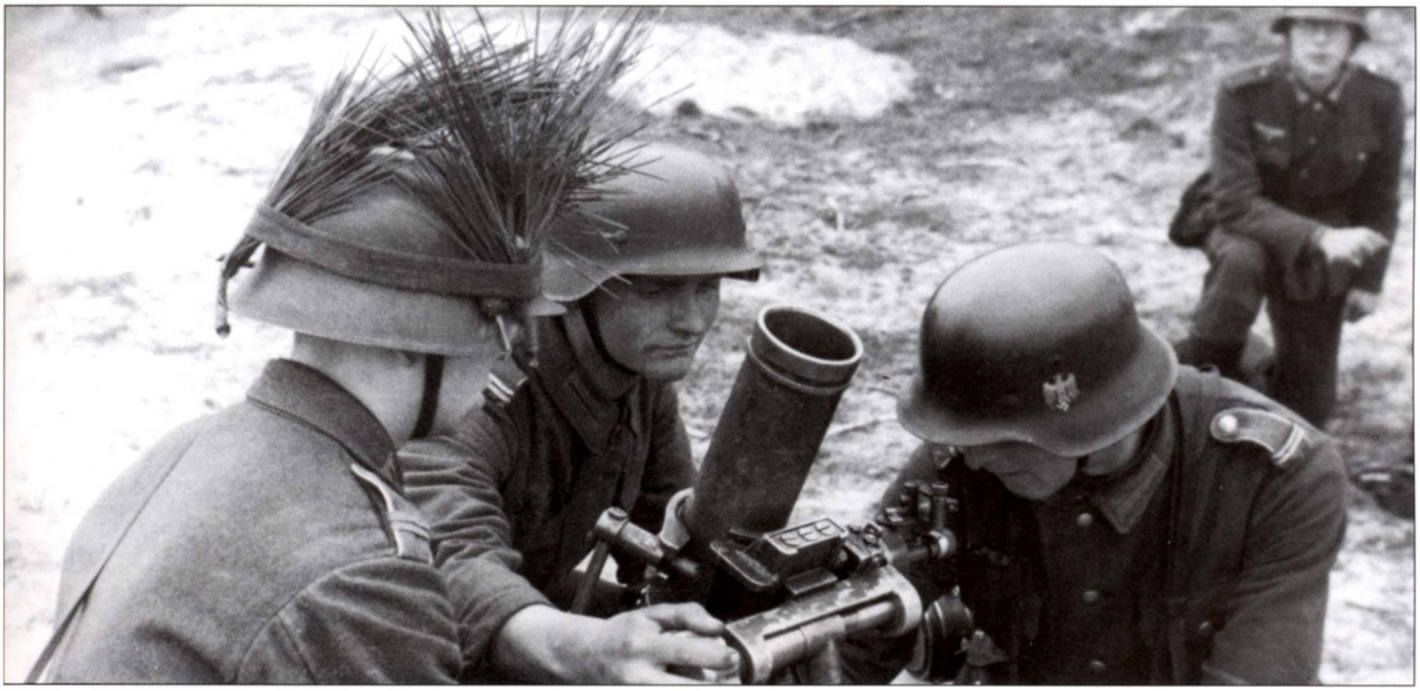






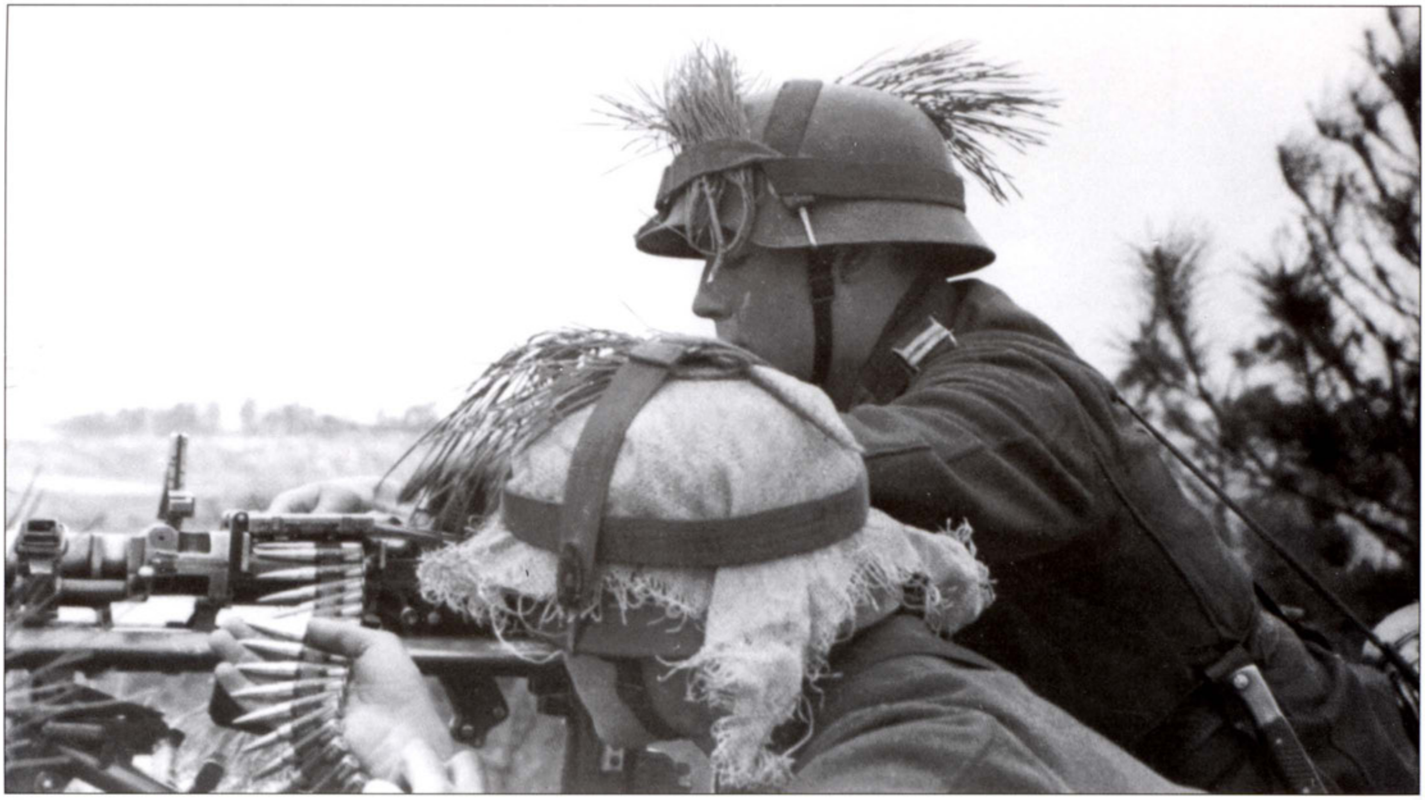
- Top left: A close-up of the same man. *(BA)*
- Top right: A tan-painted M35/M40 with foliage tucked into a homemade cloth strap with flat metal clips. *(BA)*
- Bottom: These men in Tunisia are wearing tan painted M42 helmets, two with bread bag straps and one with wire. *(BA)*

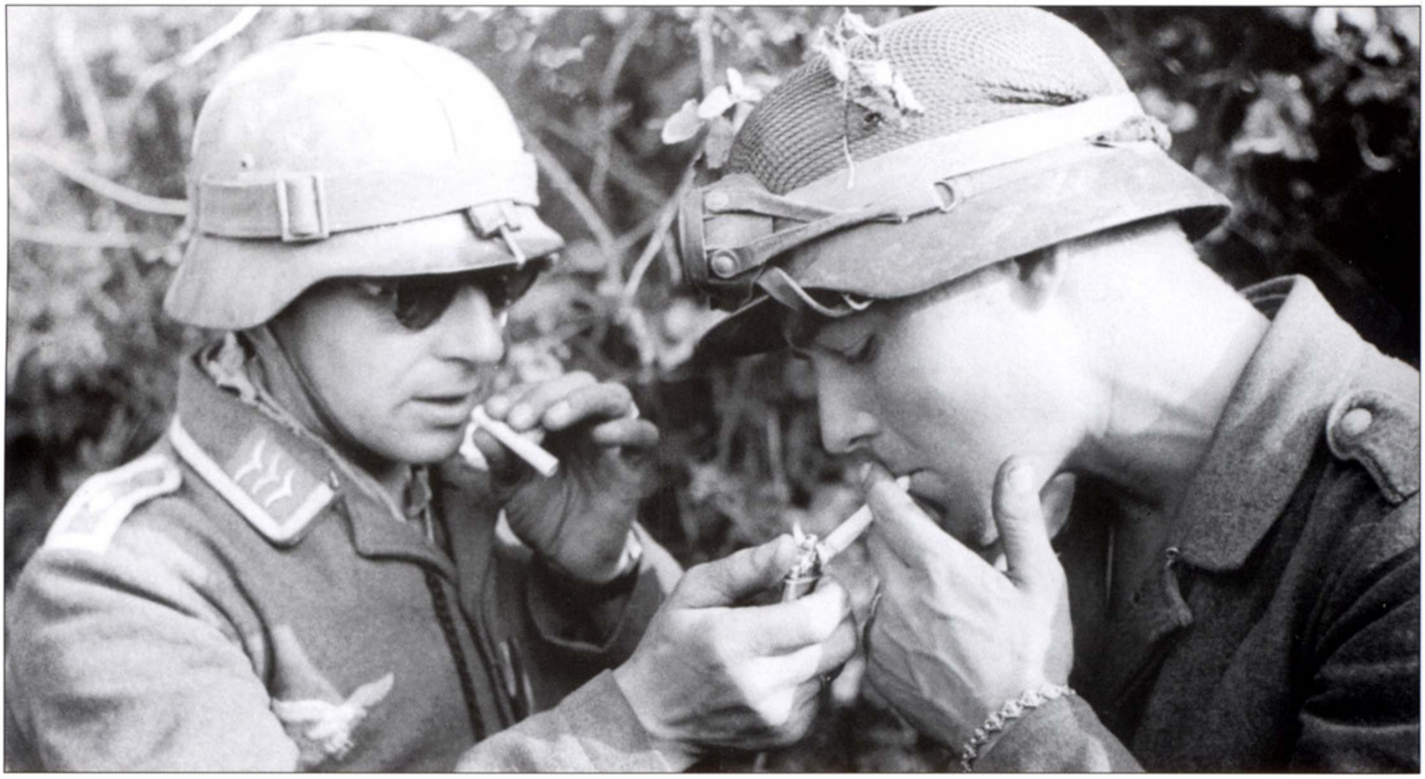




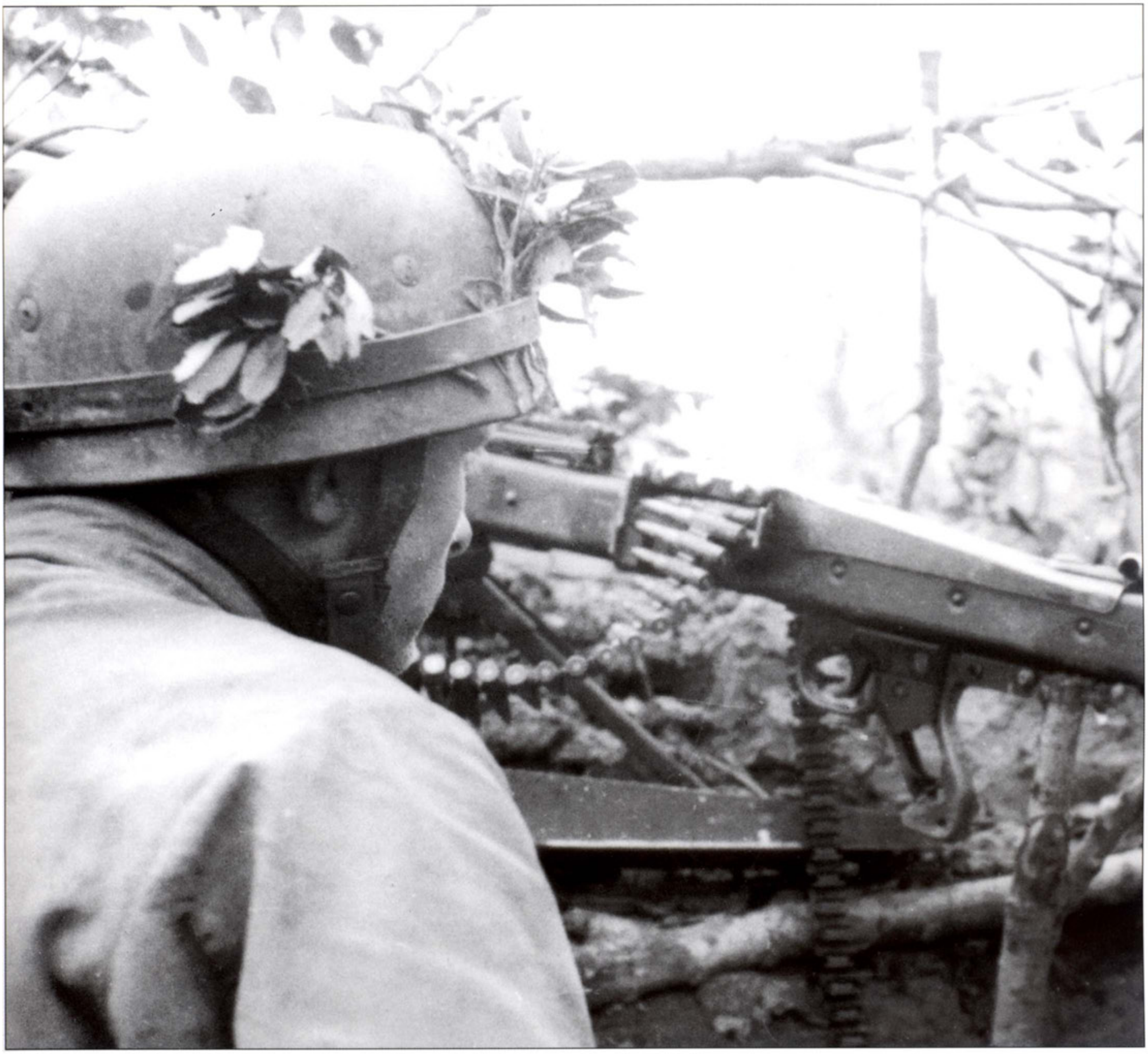
■ Top: A close-up of one of the bread bag strap worn over a tan painted helmet. *(BA)*

■ Bottom: Wearing M42s, one of this mortar crew has used the bread bag strap idea. *(BA)*





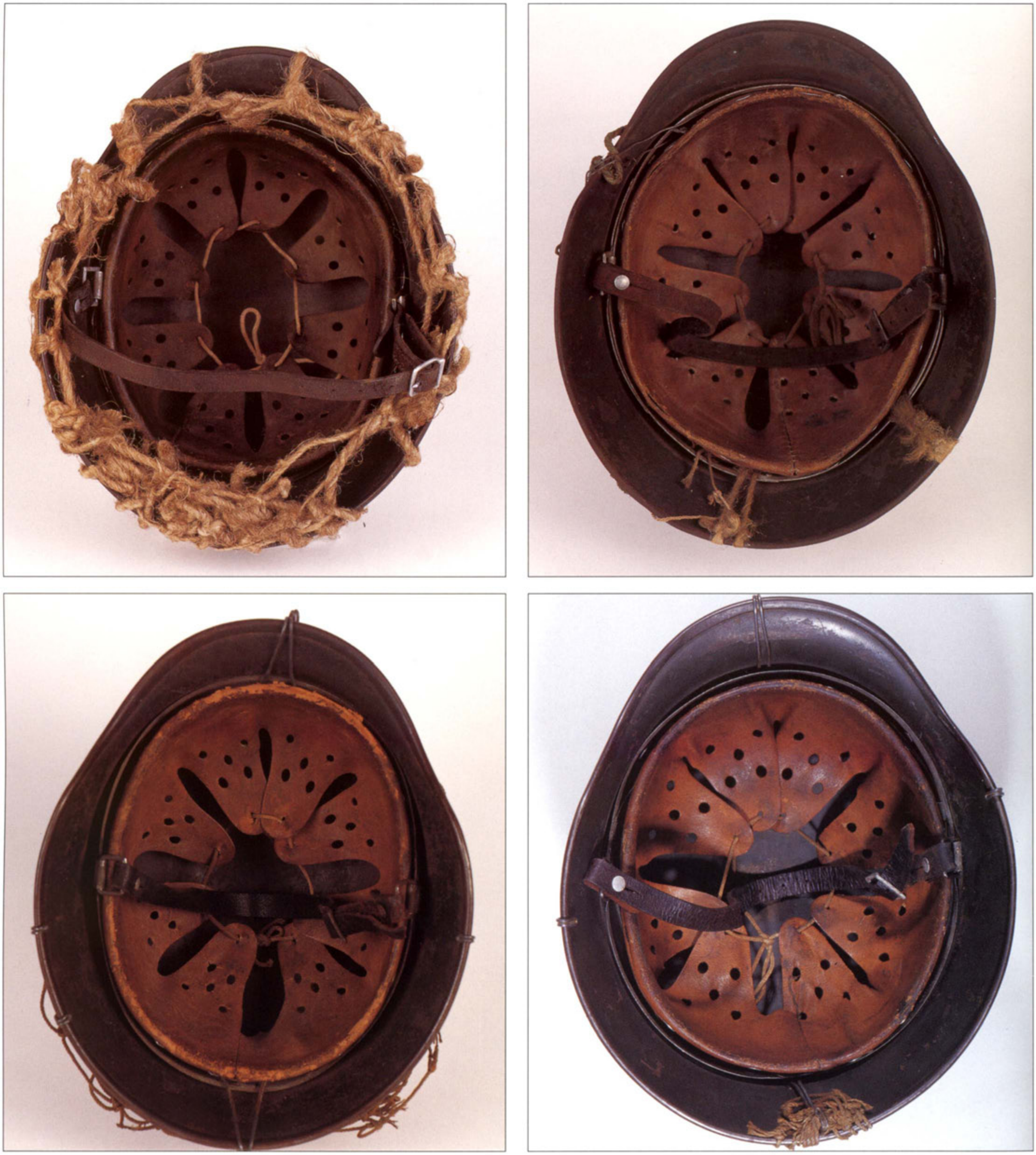
- Top: These men of an MG34 team are wearing bread bag straps to hold camouflage. The man nearest the camera has gone a step further and added a piece of hessian. *(BA)*
- Bottom: These two Luftwaffe men in Normandy have modified their helmets in different ways. The man on the left is wearing a bread bag strap with the clip to the front, while his comrade has used a piece of netting (possibly U.S. or British) over the top of his helmet and secured it with a cloth strap. *(BA)*



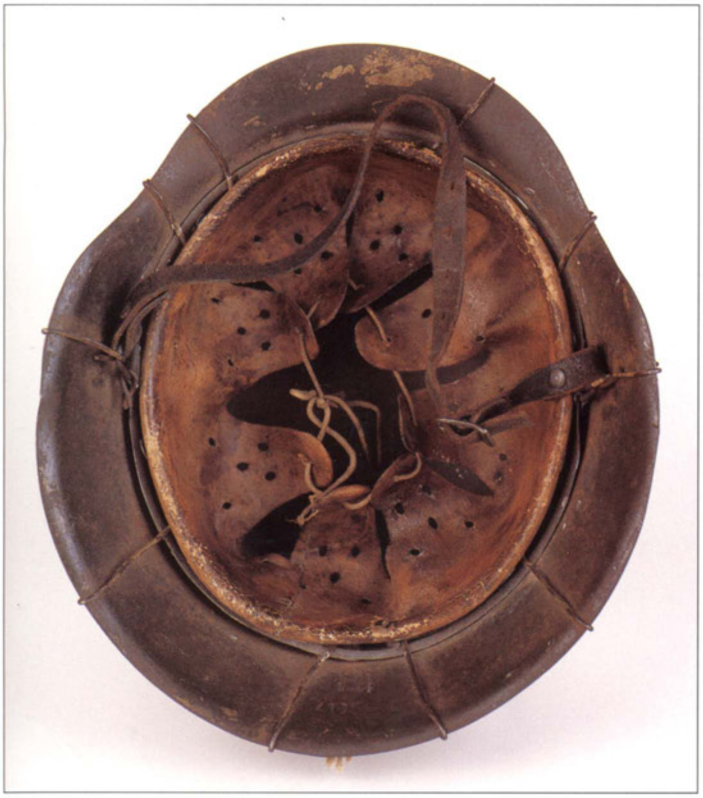
This *Fallschirmjäger* MG42 gunner has used a leather belt to hold foliage in place. *(BA)*

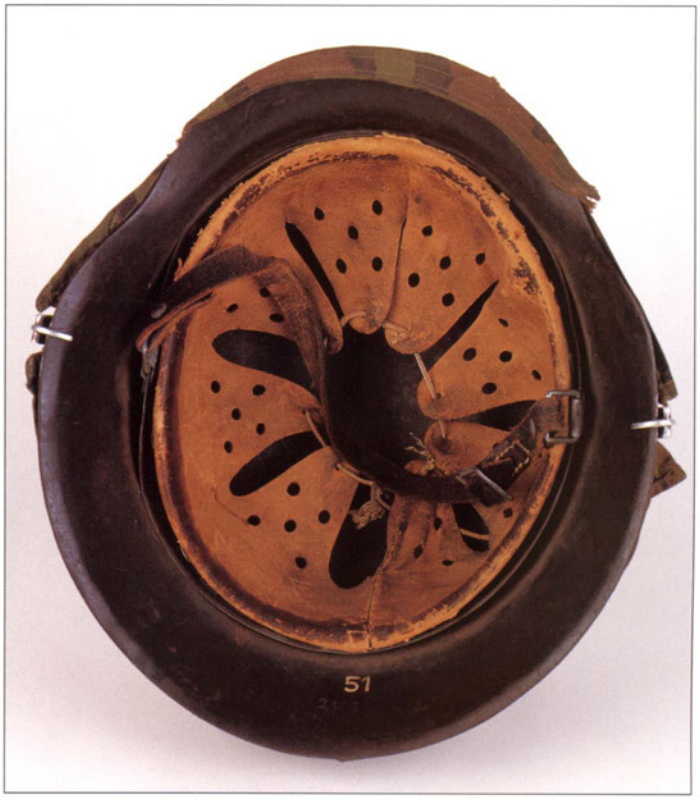
Fw. Grotzky 1. Kp

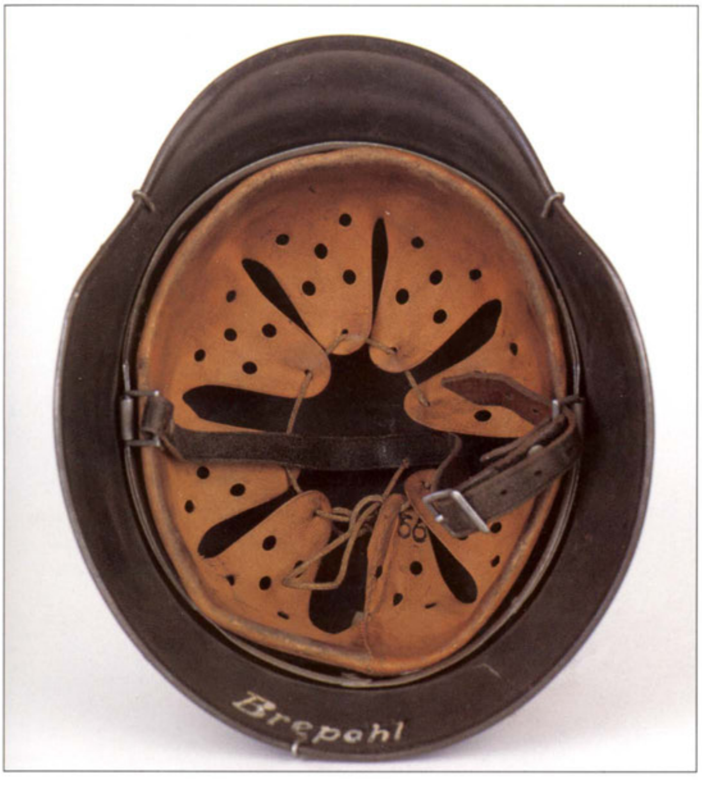
Chapter Seven: Interiors

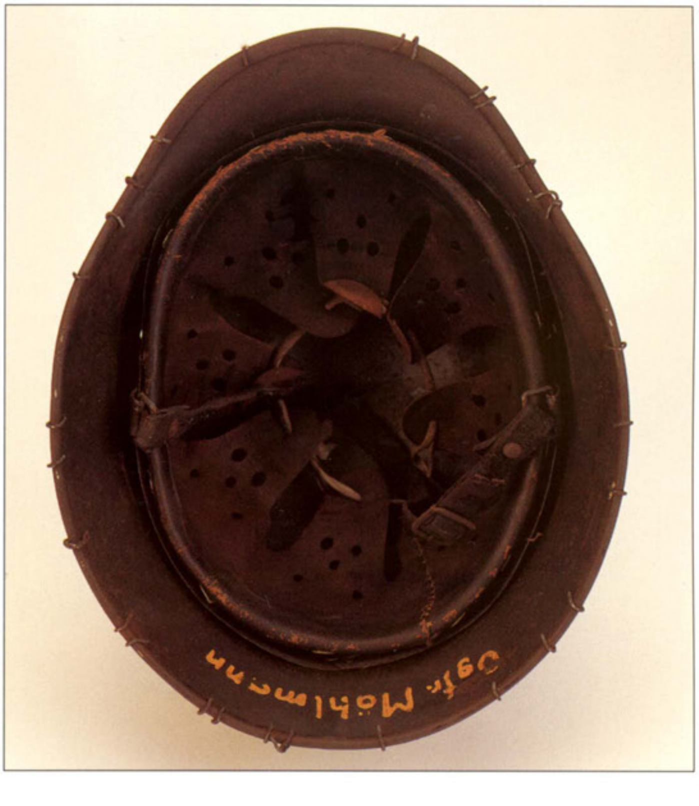


Various interior views showing methods of attaching wire and netting to helmet shells.

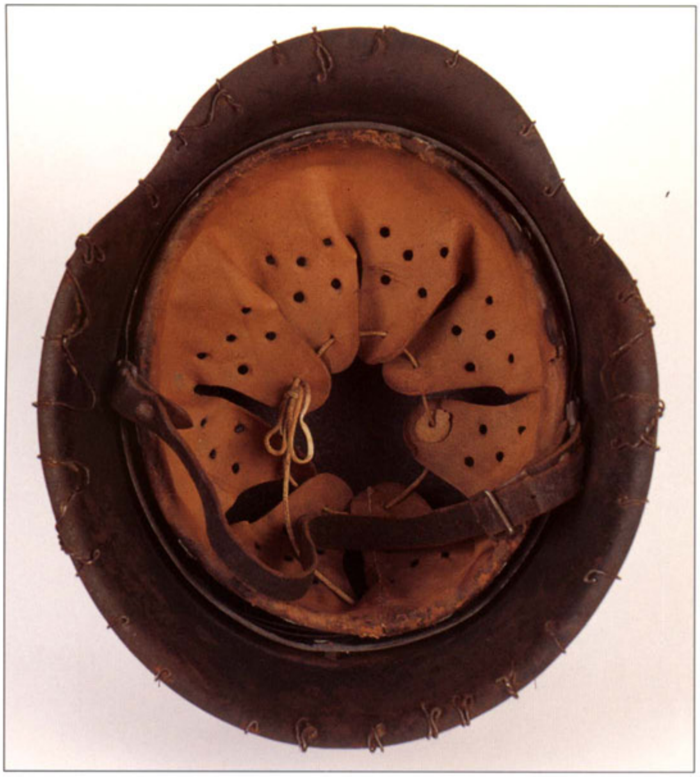


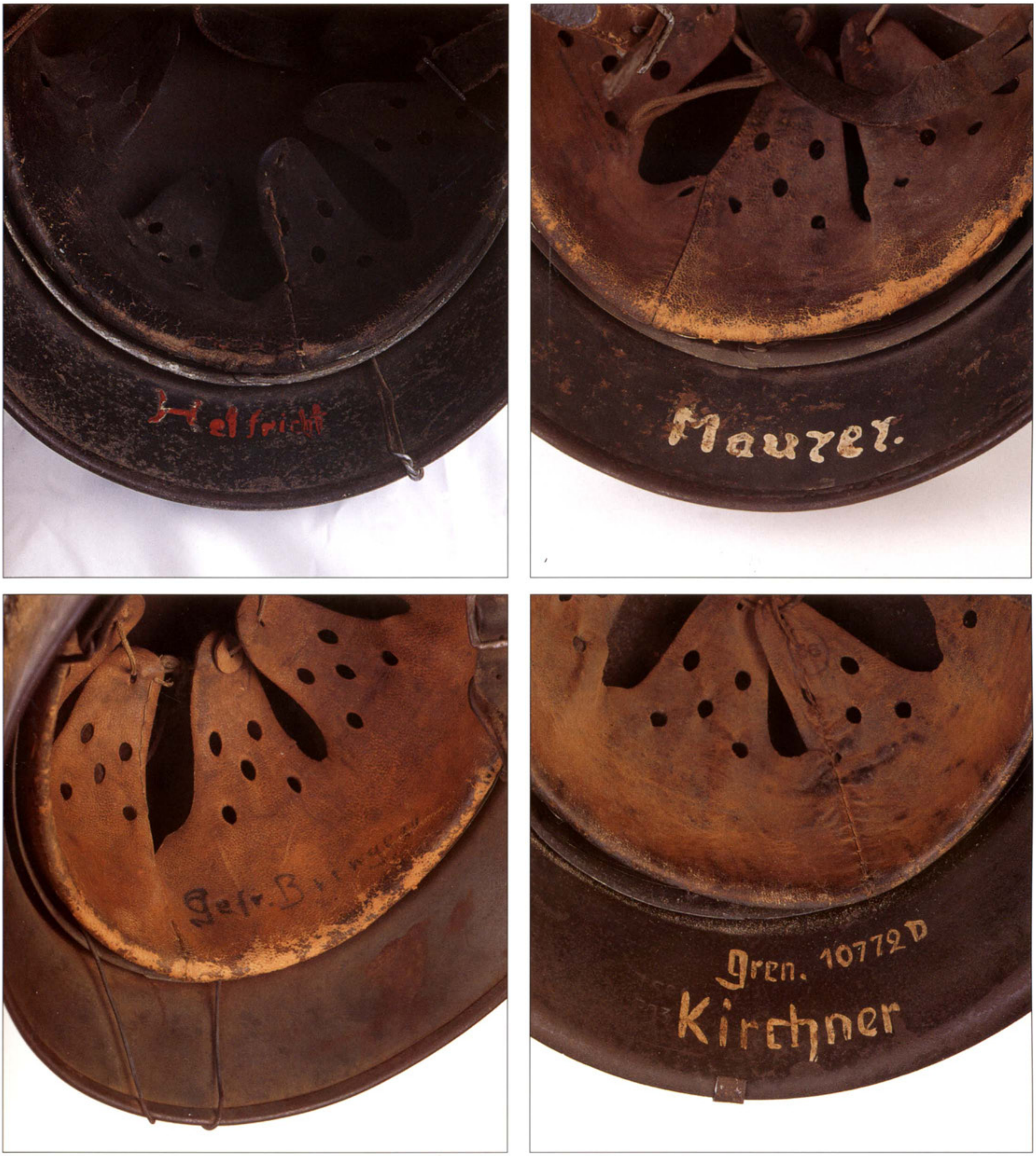

51


Brepohl


Ogfr. Möhlmann

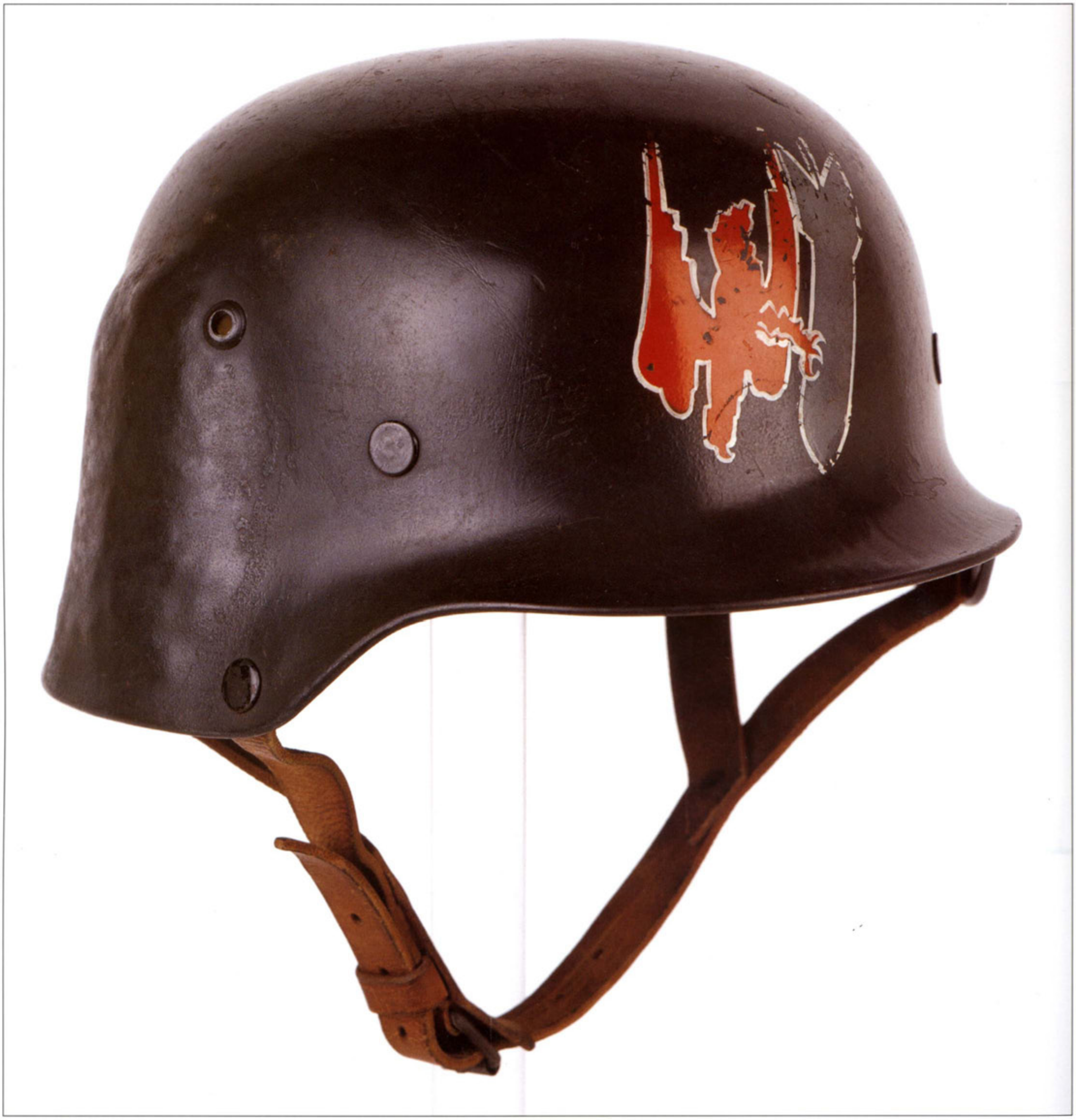
Bruns



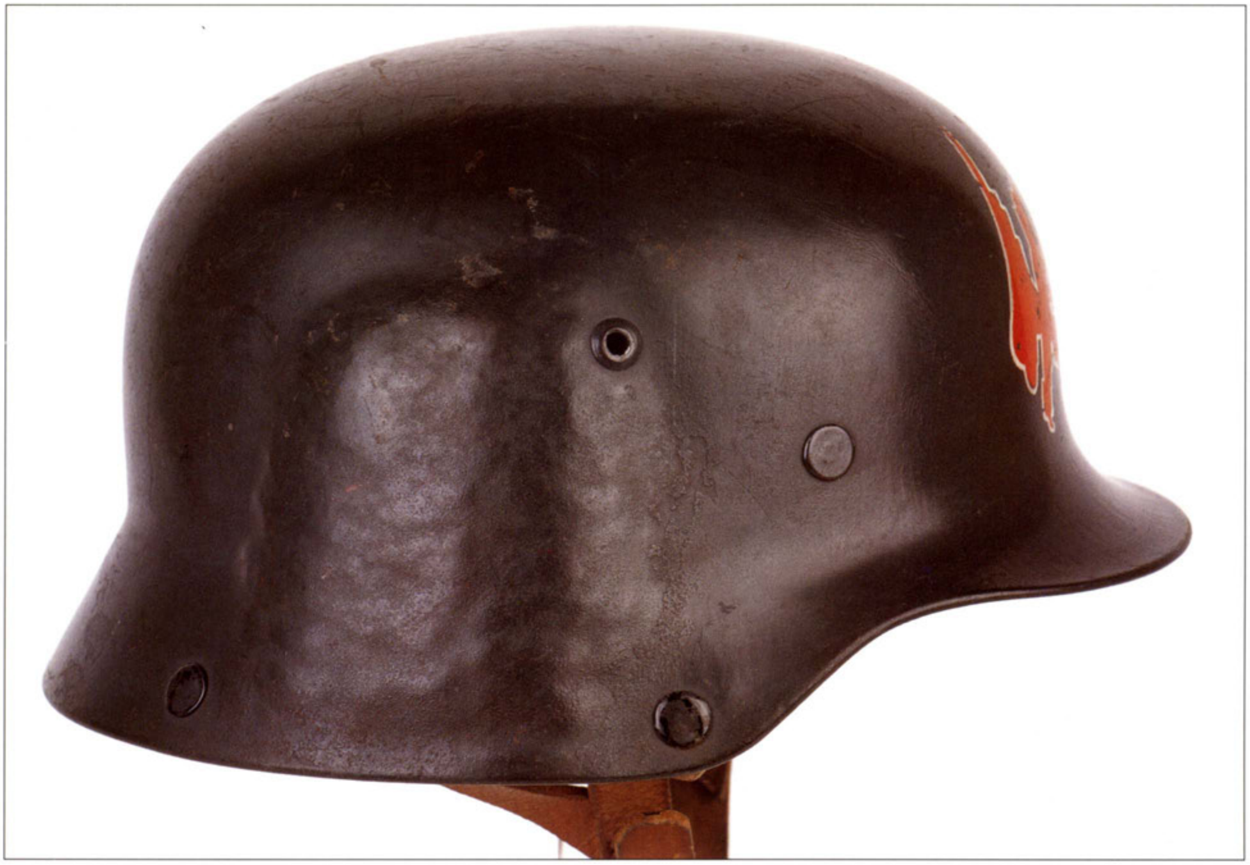

Helfricht
Maurer.
Gefr. B
Gren. 10772 D
Kirchner

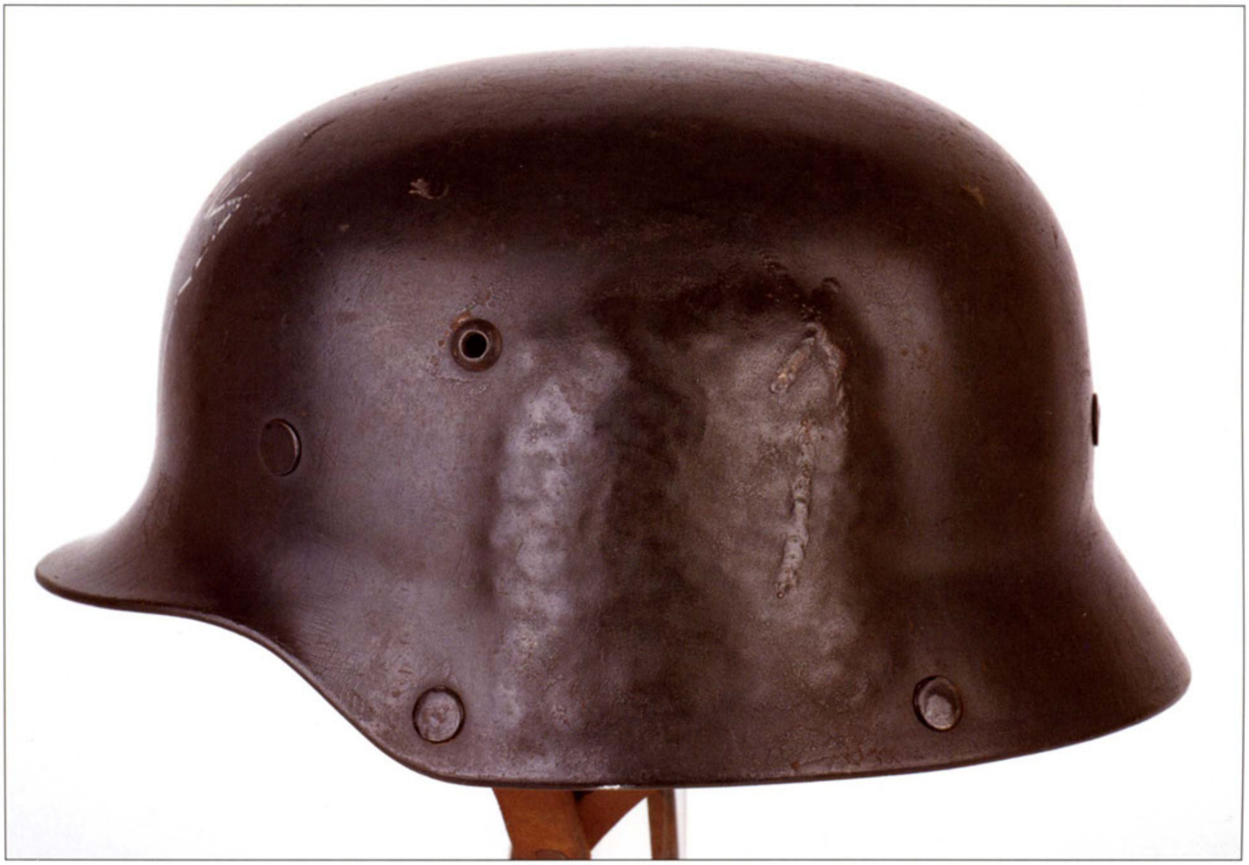
Owner-identification styles

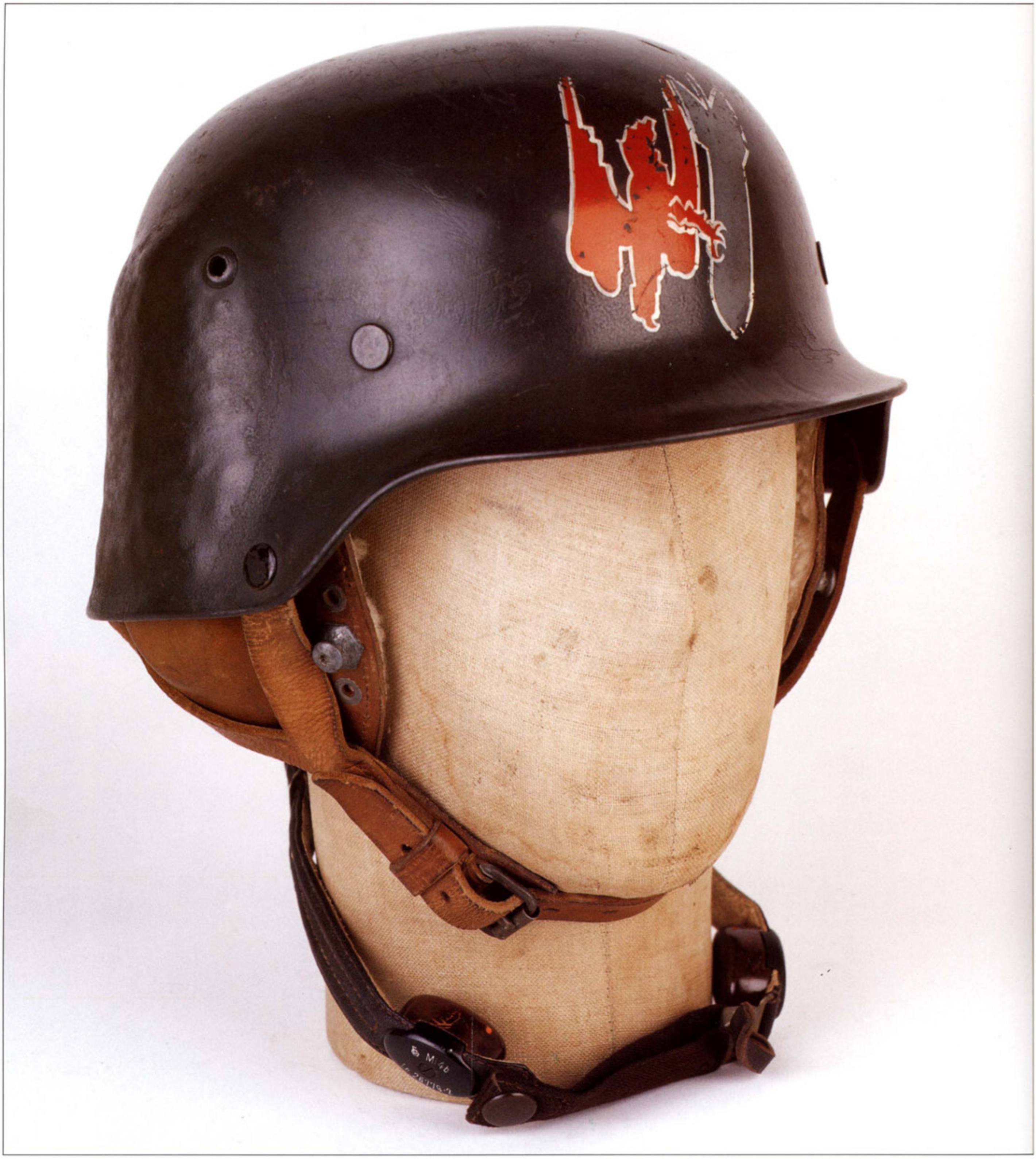
Chapter Eight: Miscellaneous

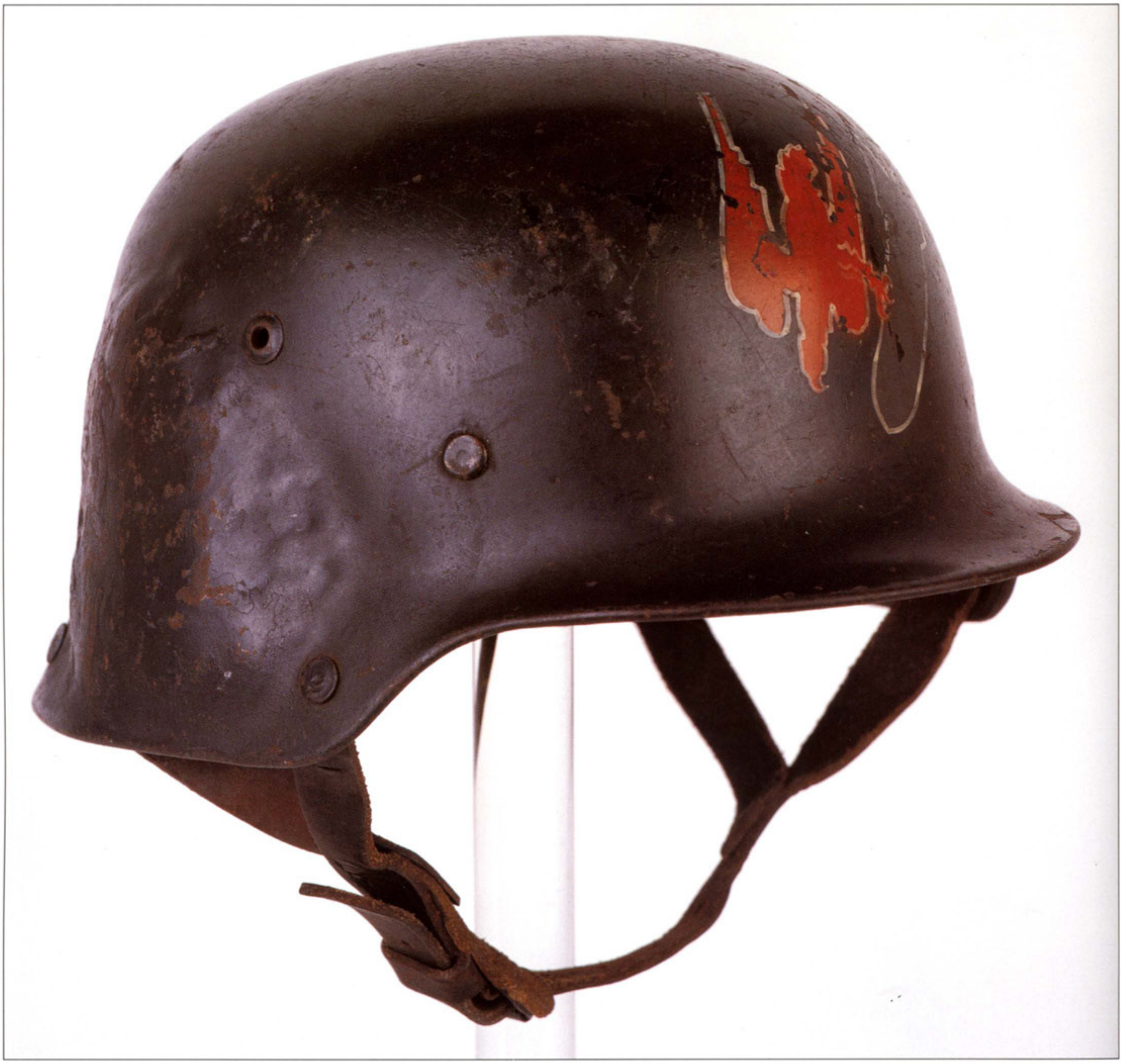


Modified M35 helmet shell for use by Luftwaffe aircrew of *Kampfgeschwader* 53. (Collection of the Imperial War Museum, London)

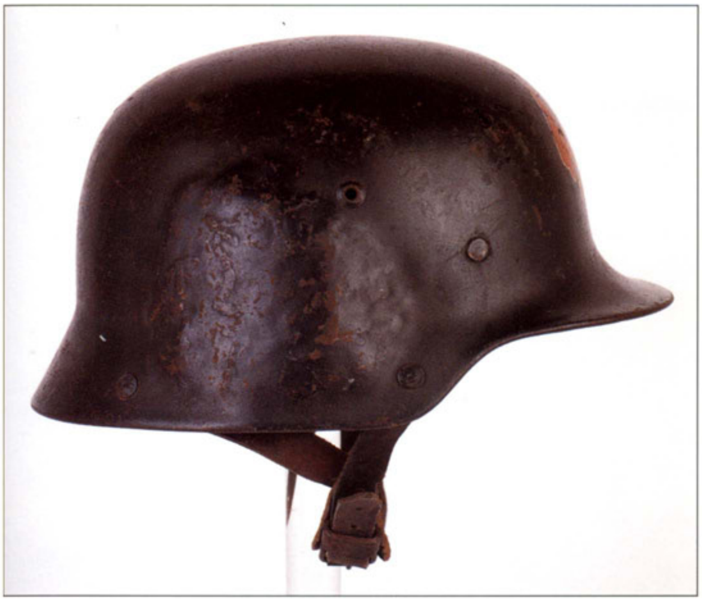


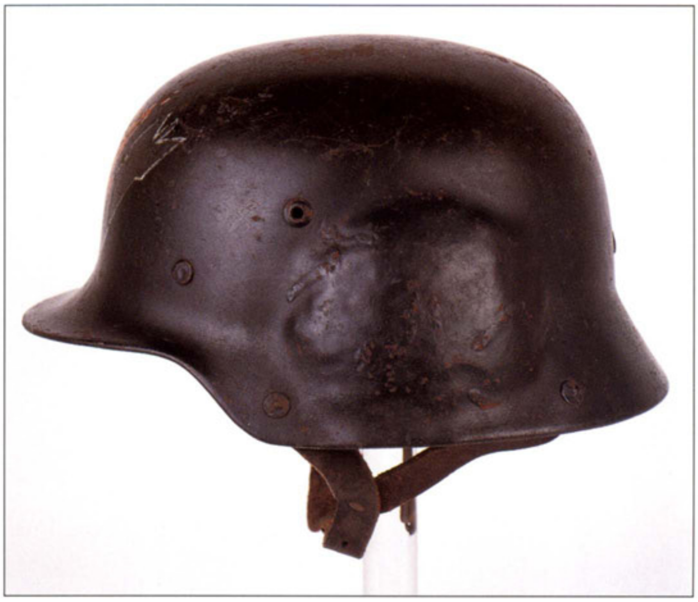


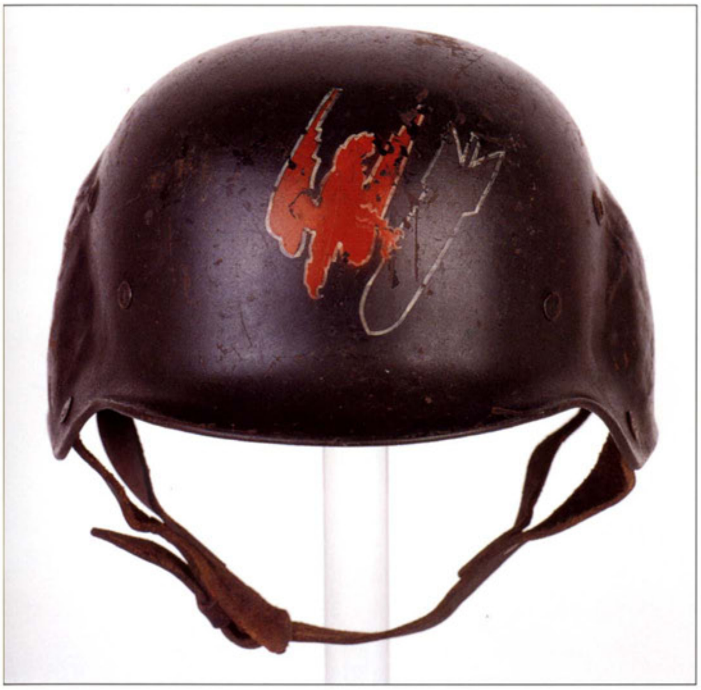


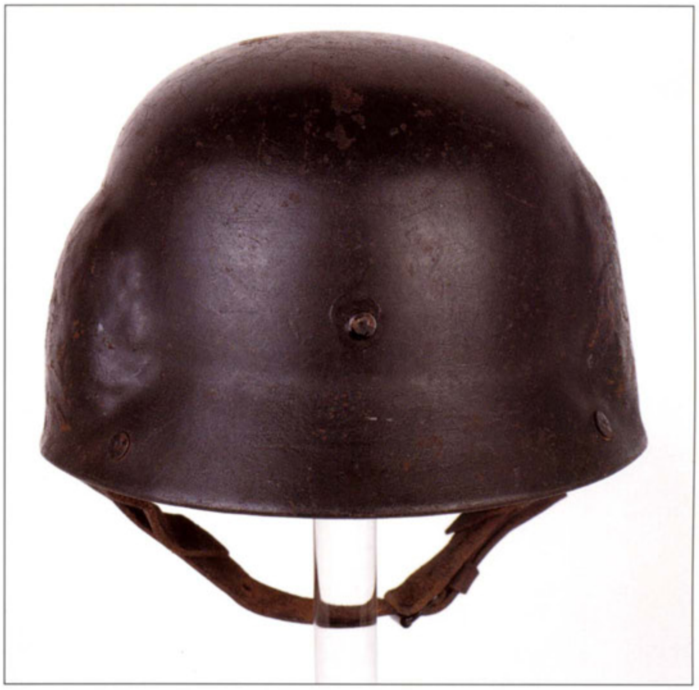


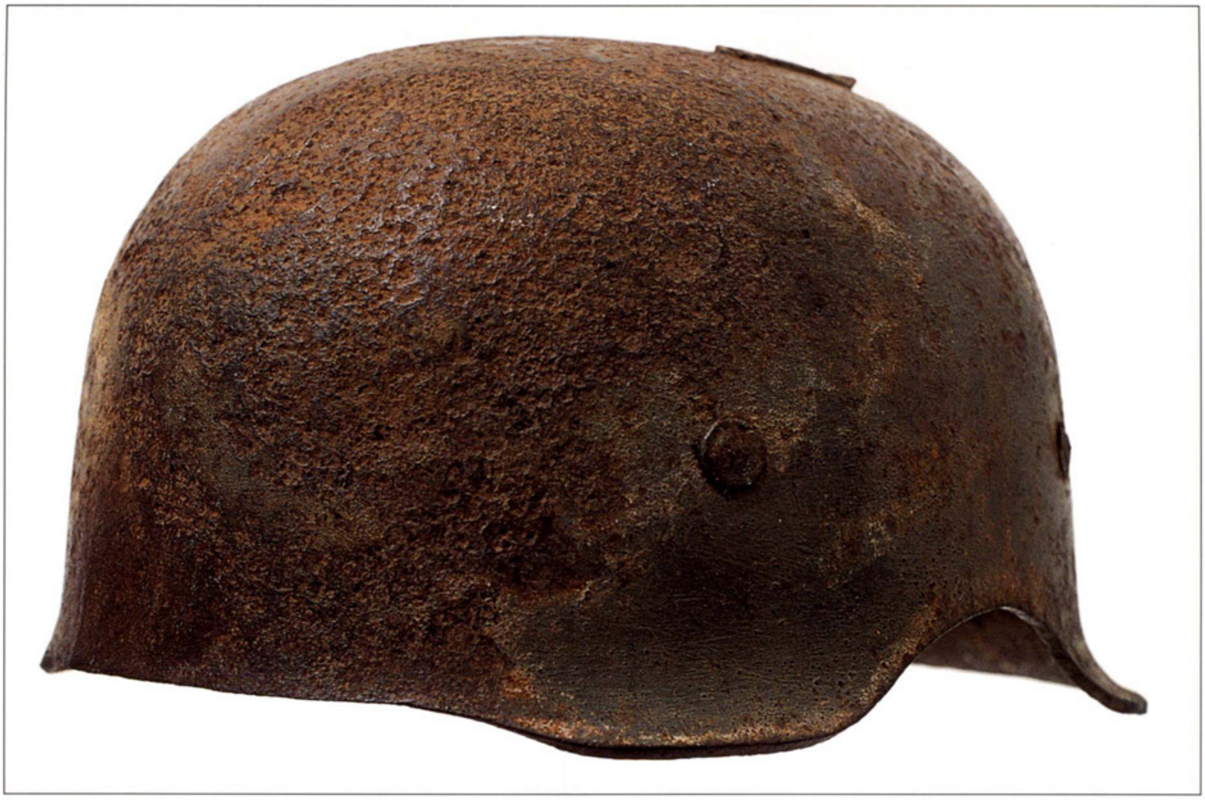
■ Another example of the modified M35 helmet shell for use by Luftwaffe aircrew of *Kampfgeschwader* 53. (Collection of the Imperial War Museum, London)

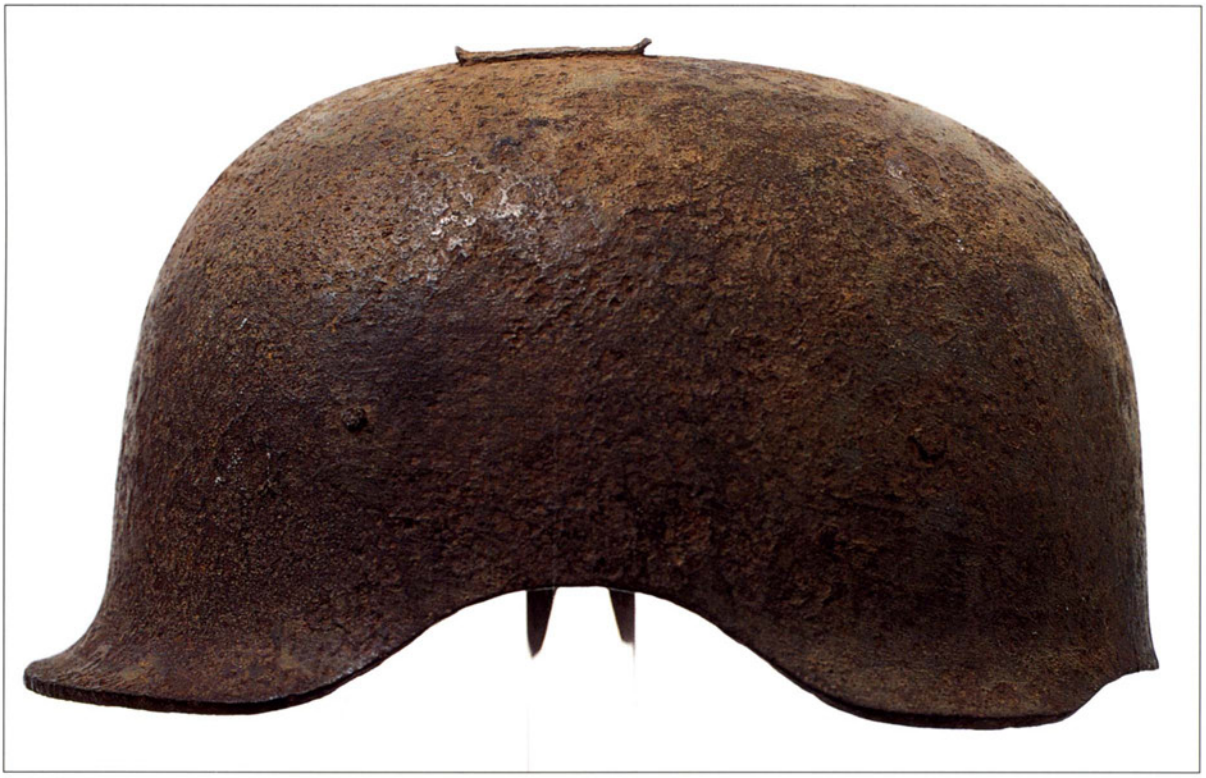




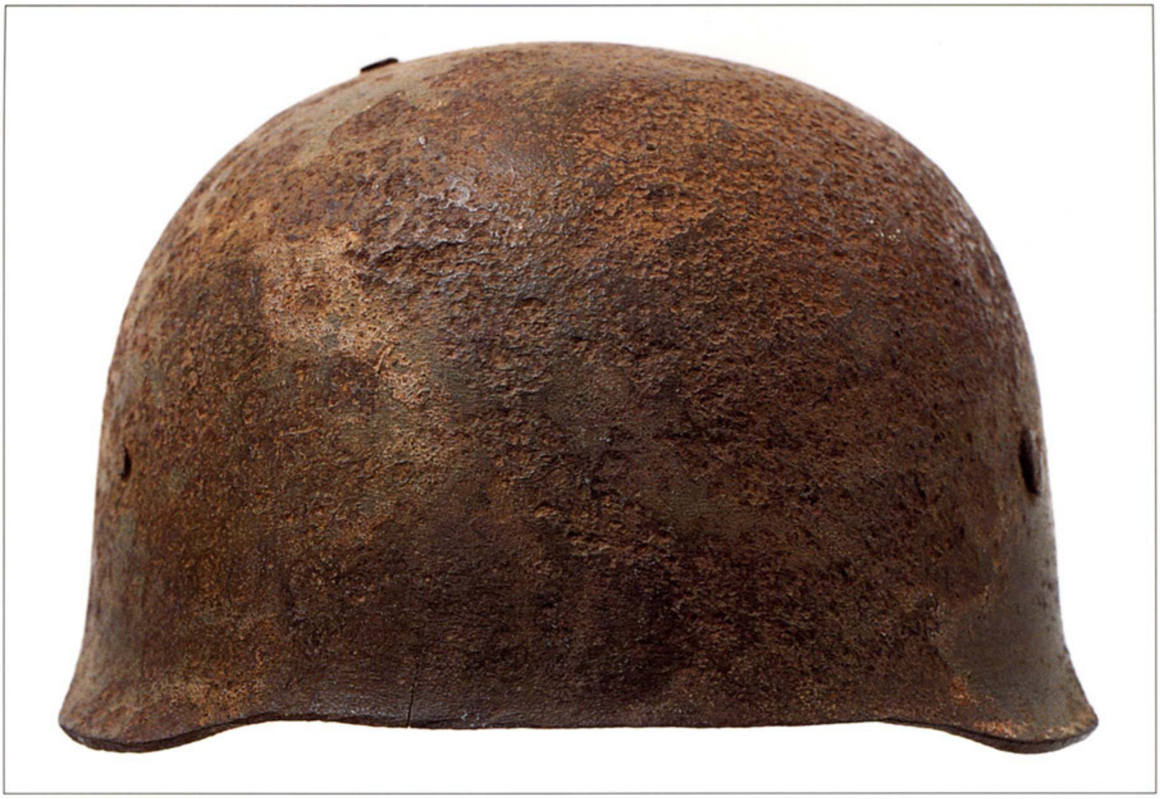


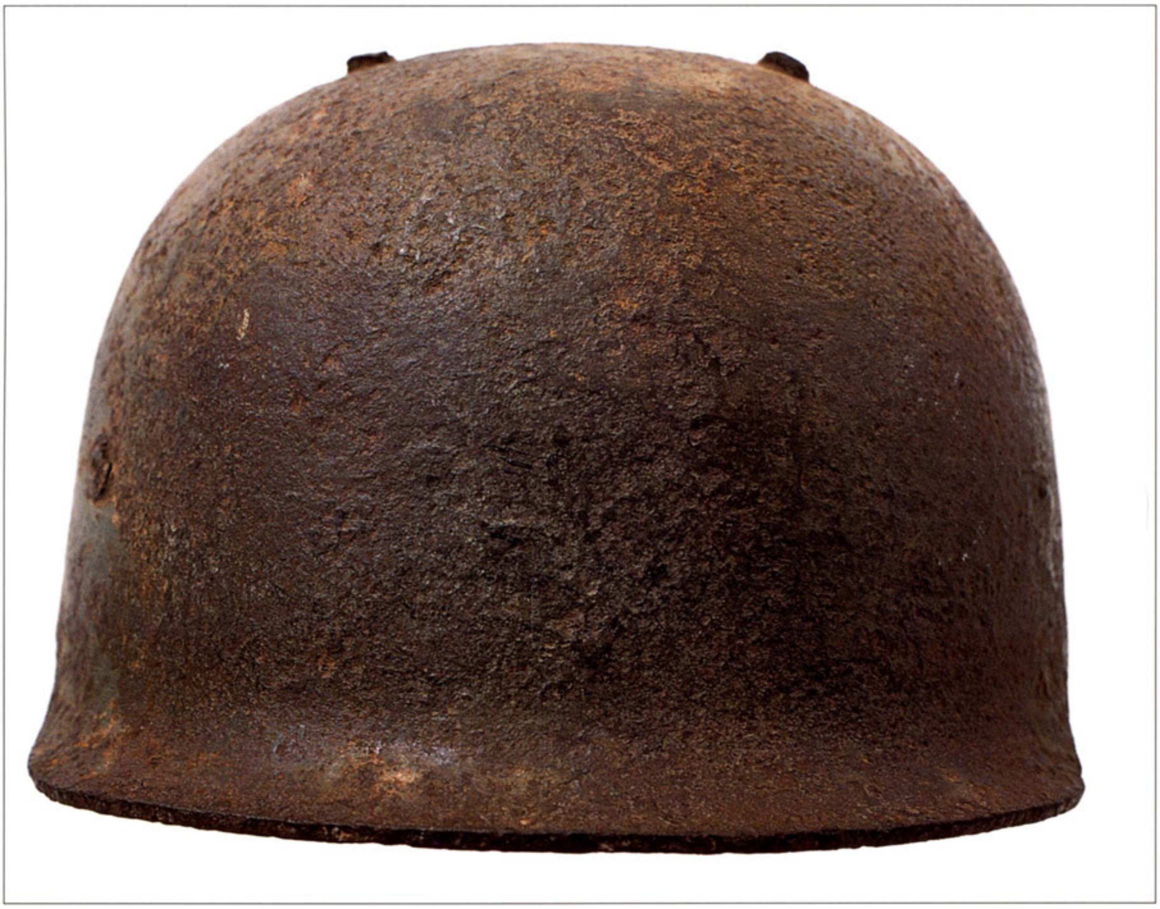


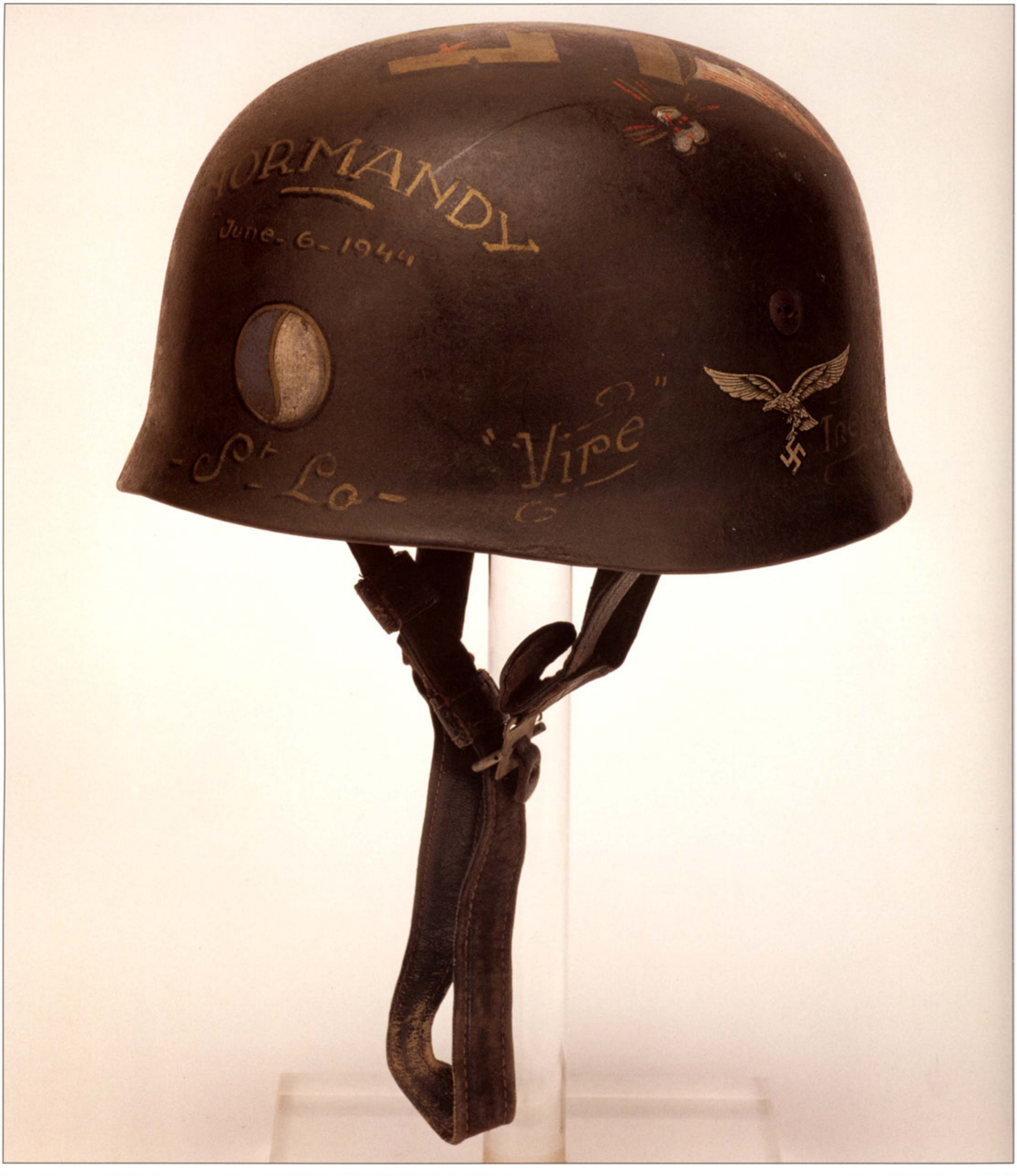




A very heavy gauge Luftwaffe *fliegerstahlhelm* for aircrew, originally painted grey-green. The liner seems to have been held in place by four flat-headed rivets. On the top are the remains of two metal fasteners, perhaps in sprung steel to hold goggles or oxygen mask. This unusual helmet was retrieved from the wreckage of a German bomber near Portsmouth, England, during the Battle of Britain. (Collection of the Malcolm Fisher - Regimentals)

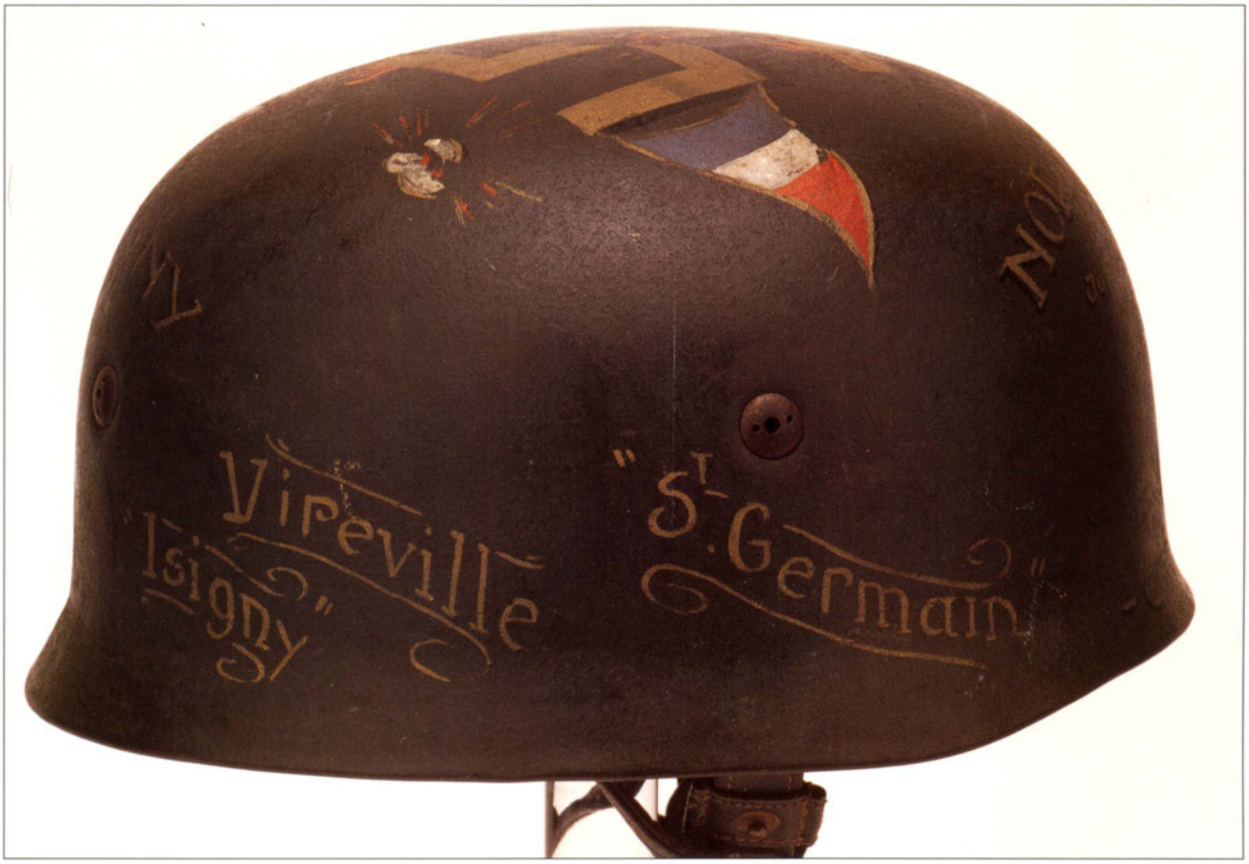


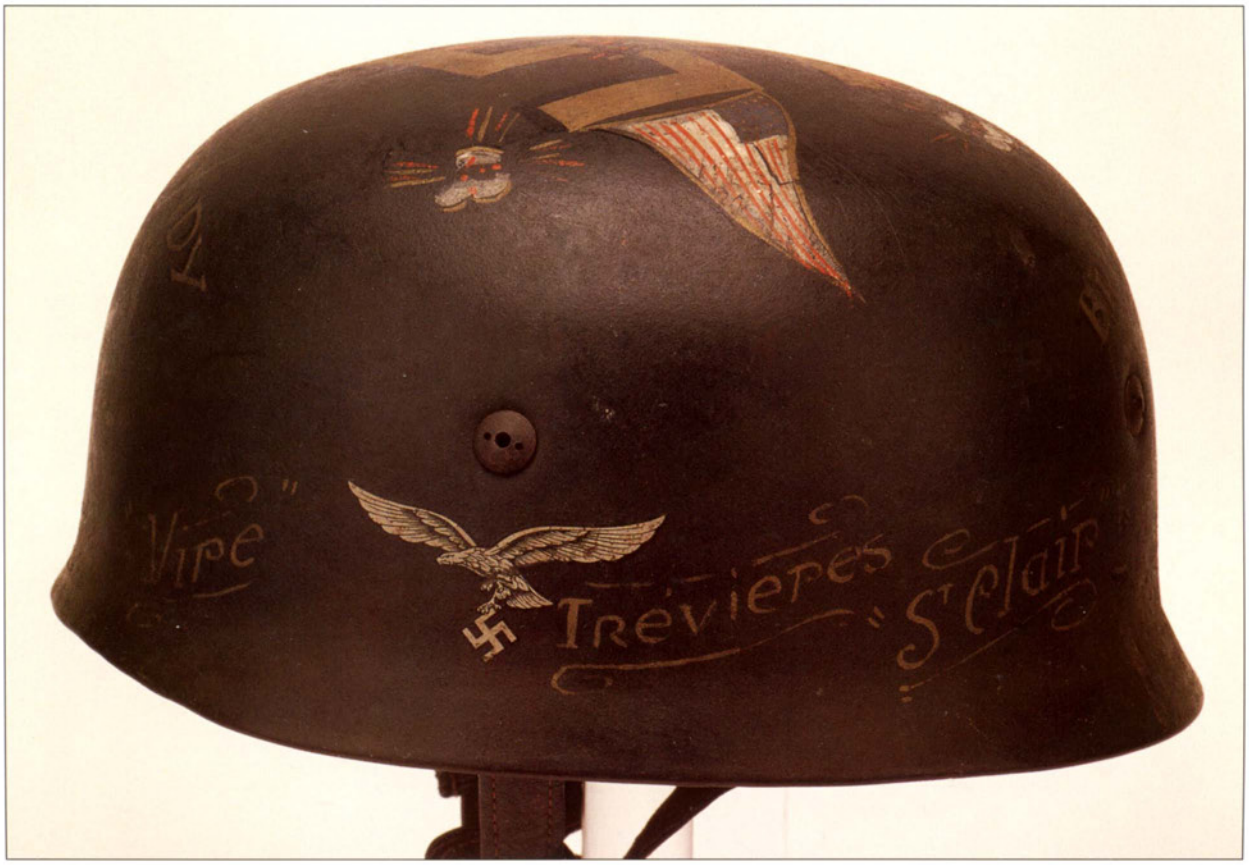


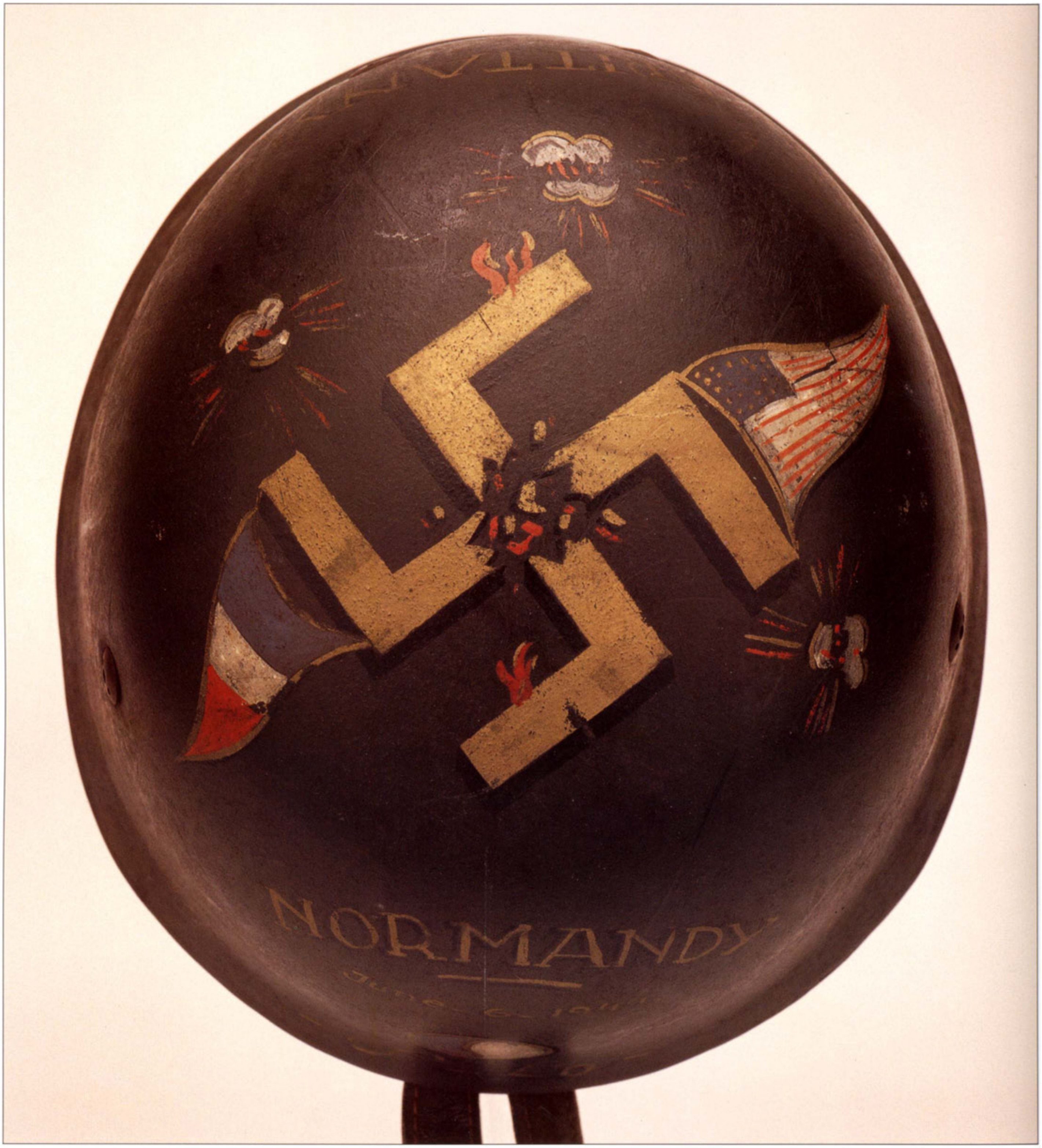


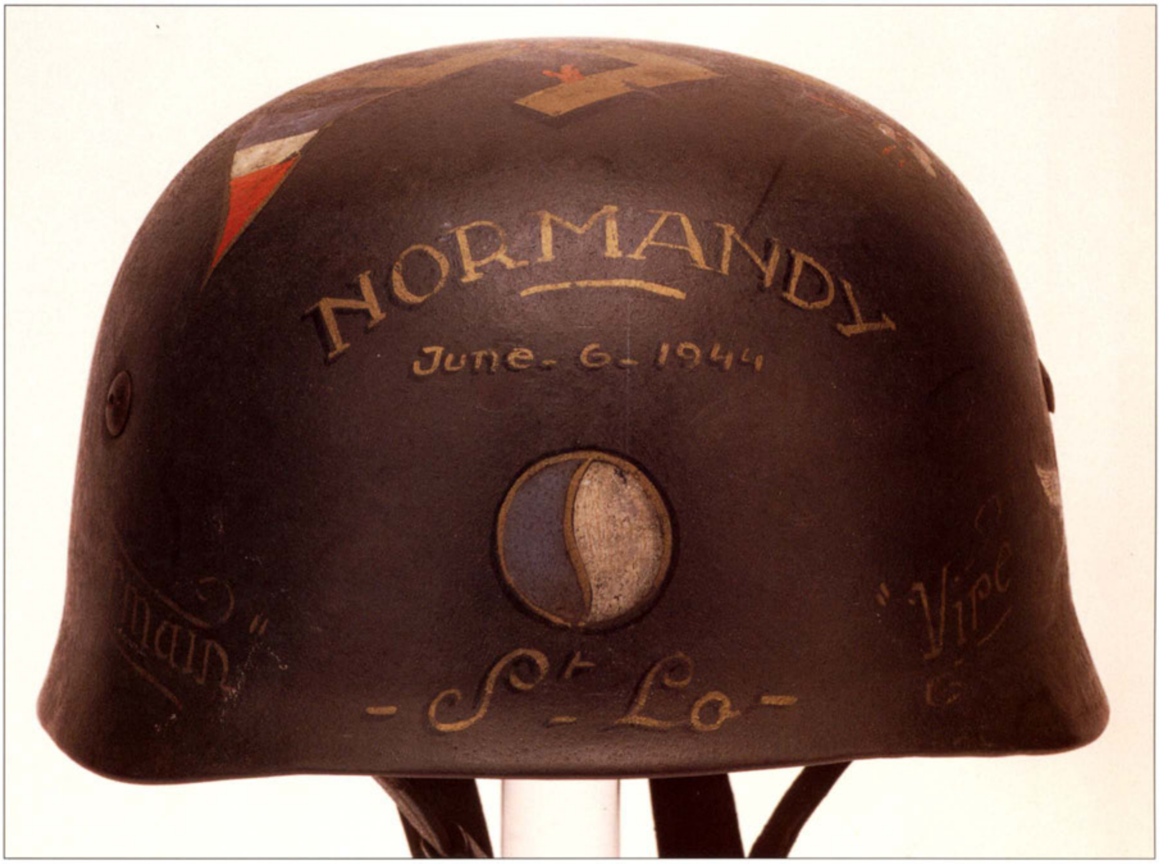
NORMANDY
June-6-1944
-St Lo-
"Vire"

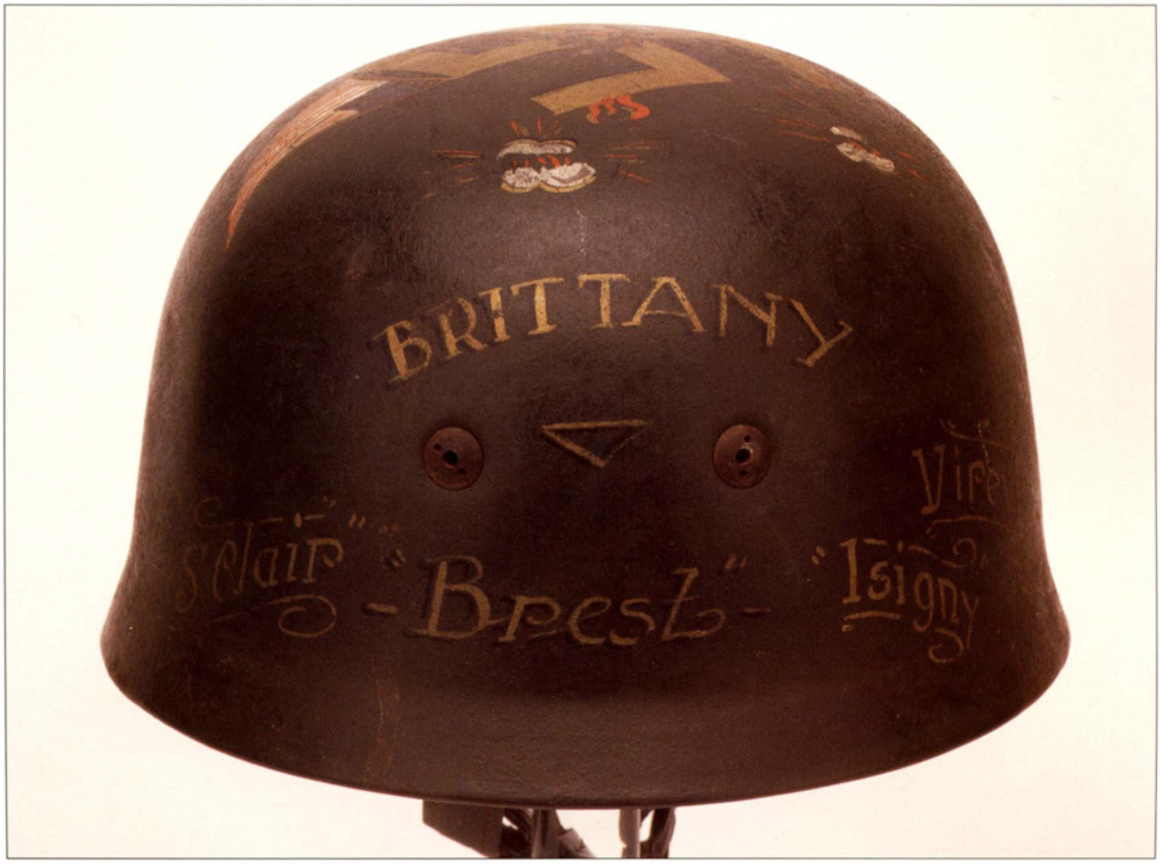
M38 souvenired trophy, painted by a veteran of the U.S. 30th Division who landed in Normandy on D-Day 1944. (Collection of Brian Maederer - Military Collectibles)

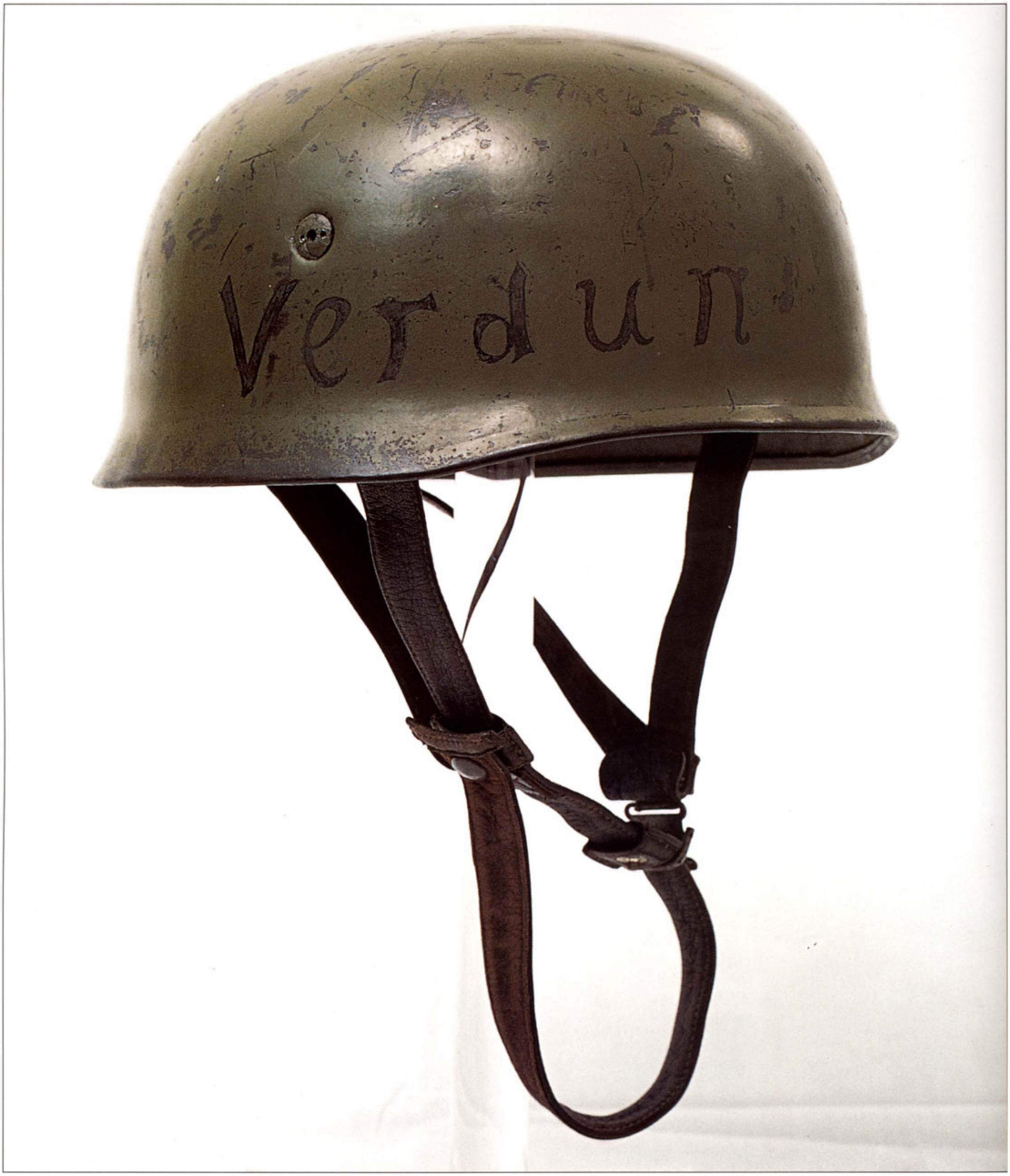

"Isigny"
Vireville
"St. Germain"


"Vire"
Trévières
"St Clair"

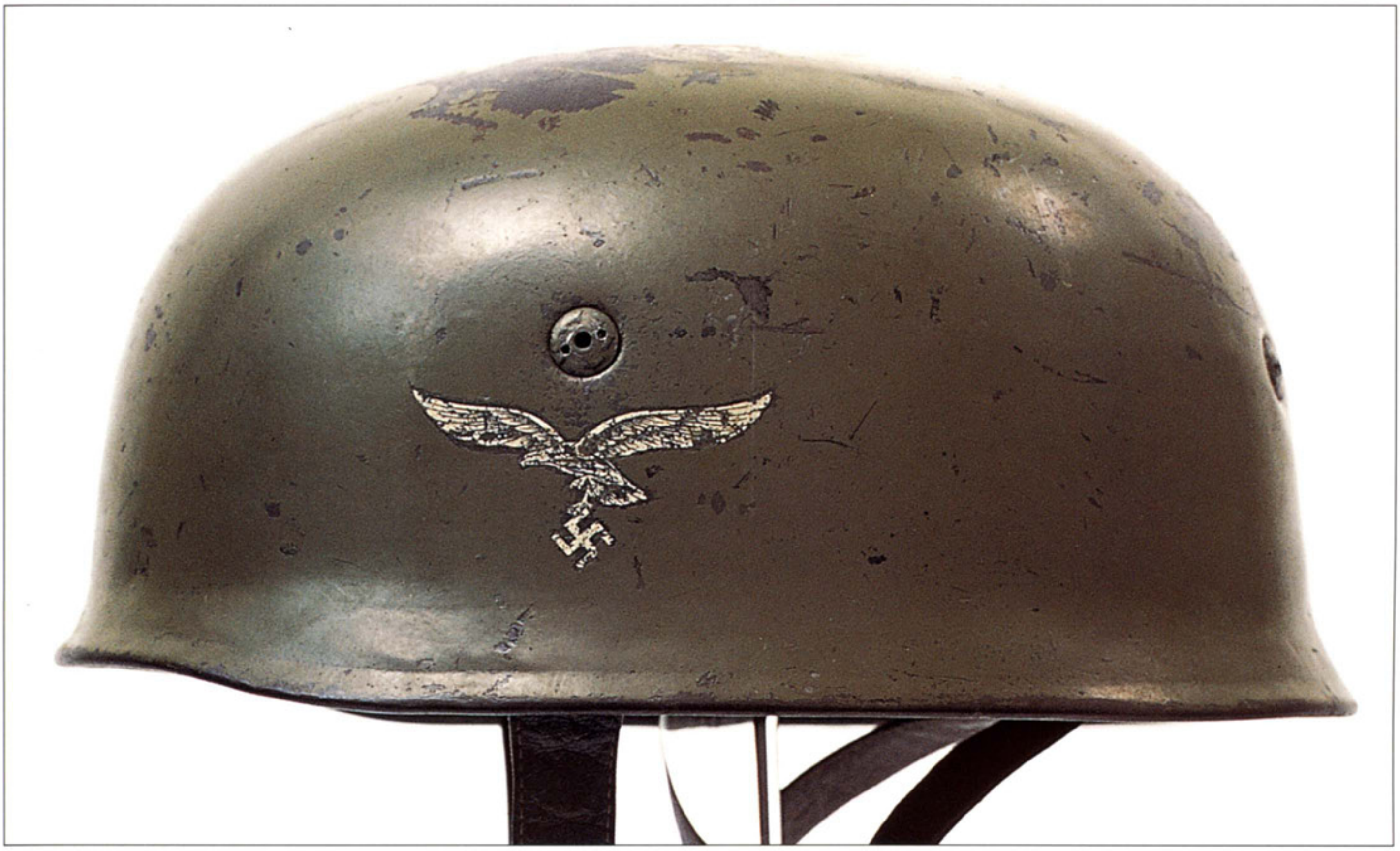

NORMANDY
June 6 1944

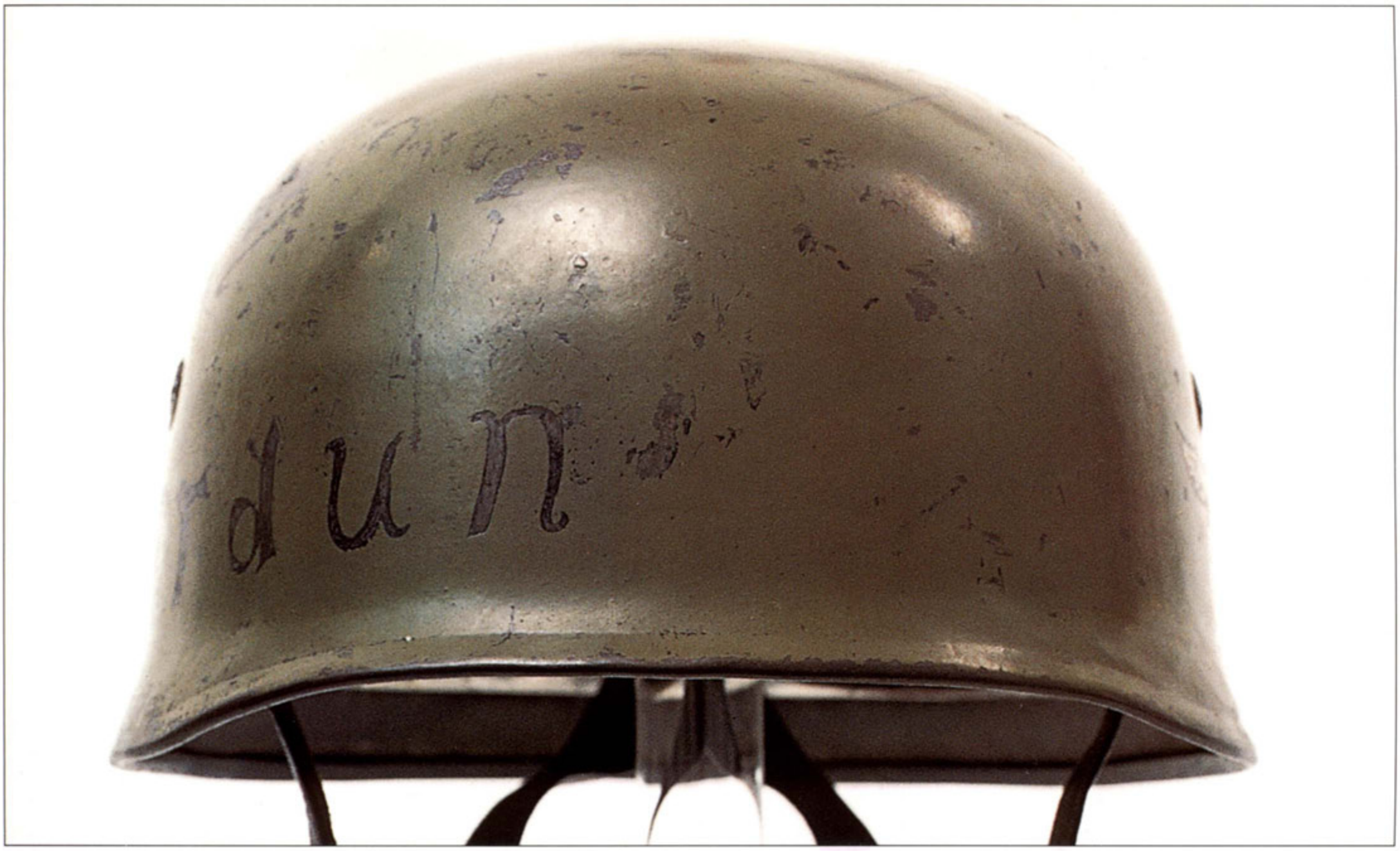

NORMANDY
June-6-1944
"...main"
-St Lo-
"Vire

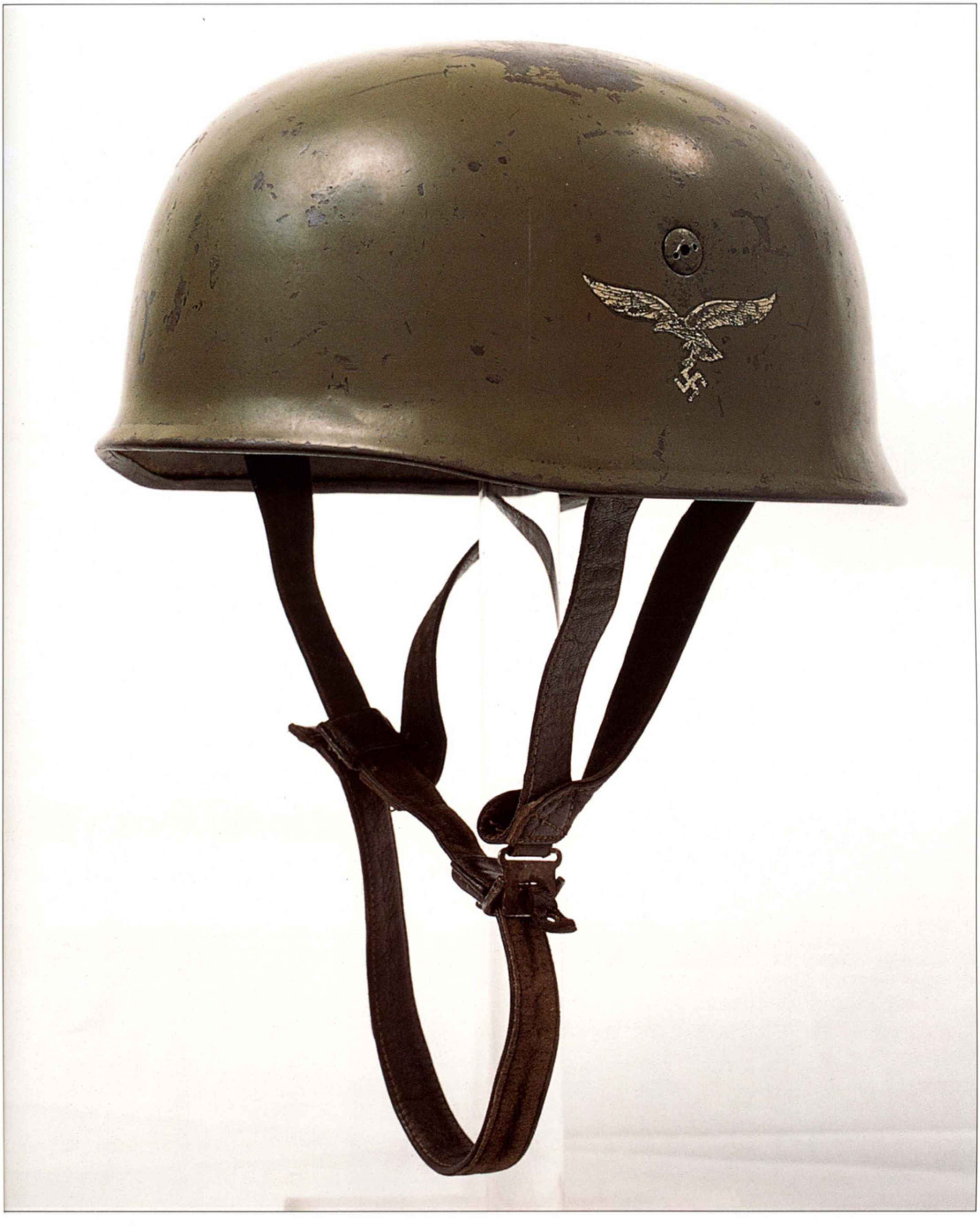

BRITTANY
"...St Clair"
-Brest-
"Vire
"Isigny

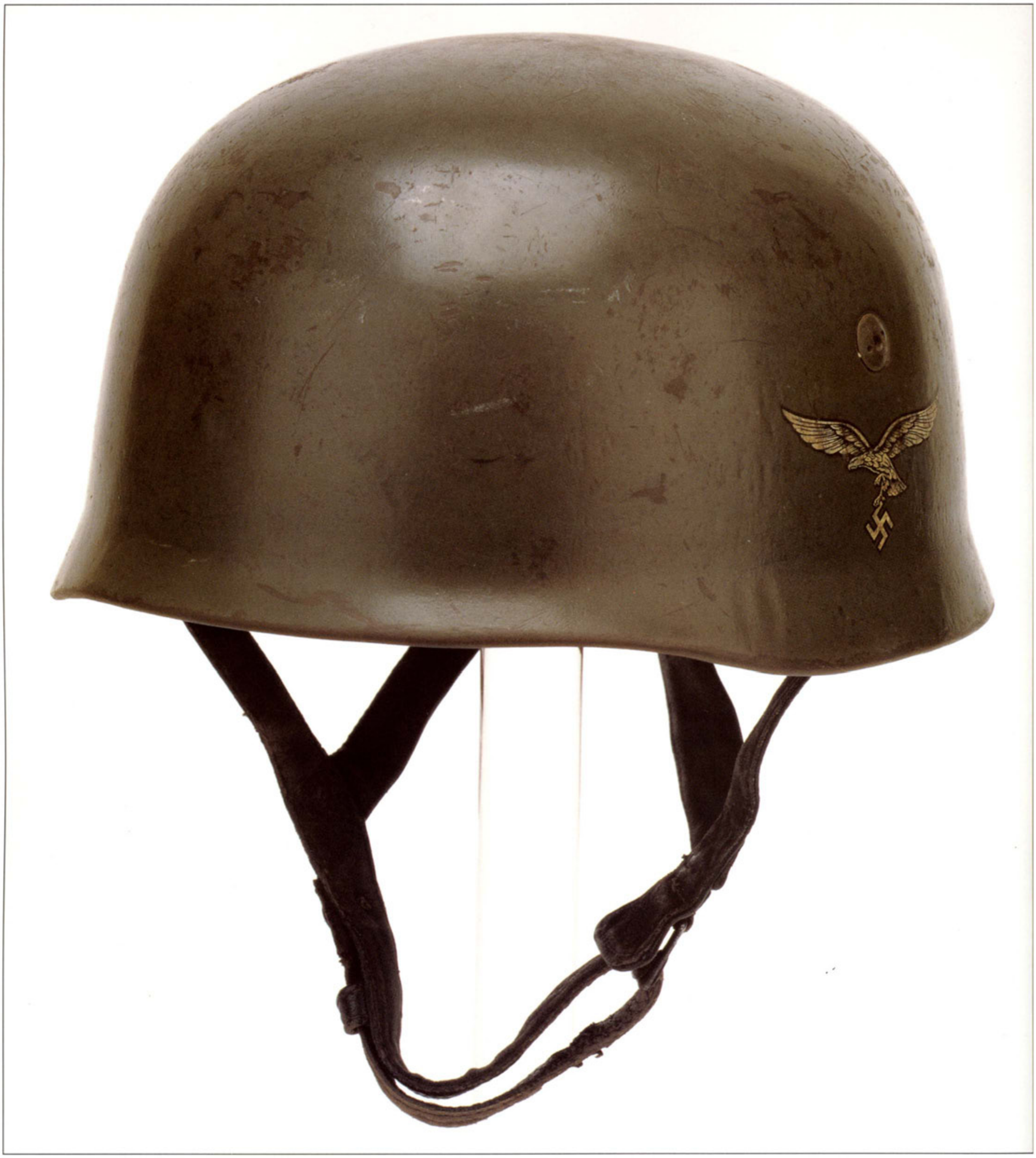


M38 souvenired trophy originally painted a dark grey-green, overpainted in an apple green with the name "Verdun" scratched through the paint. (Collection of Malcolm Fisher - Regimentals)

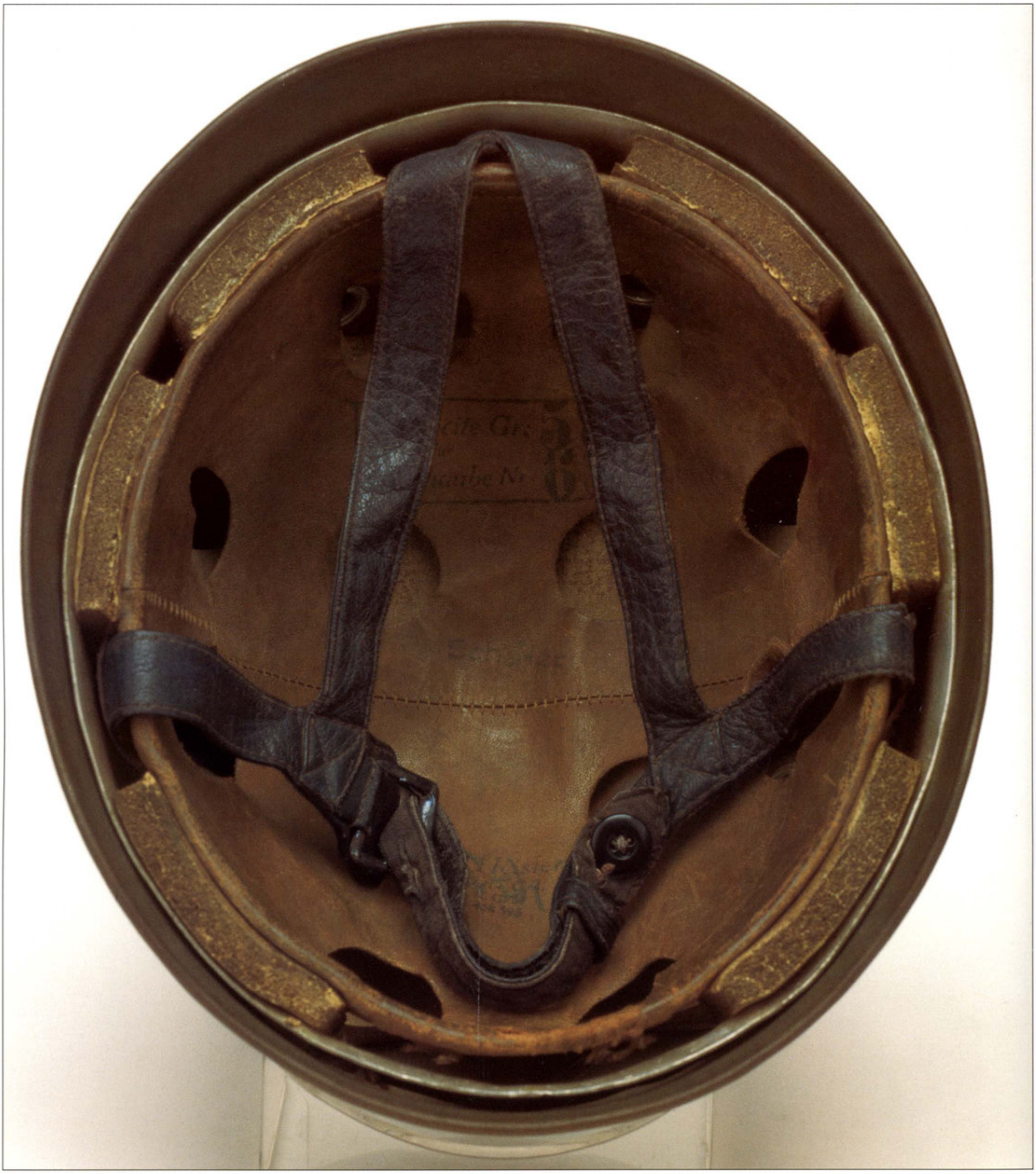


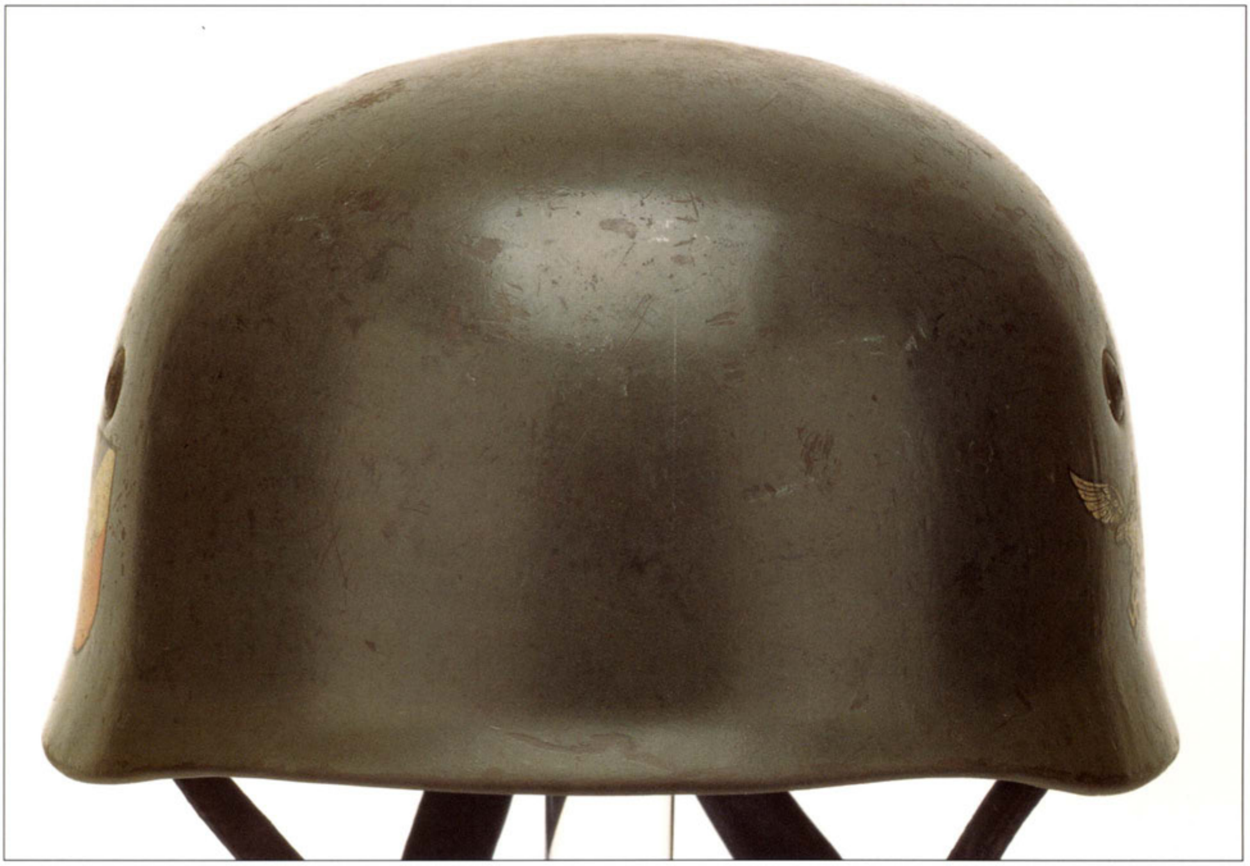

dun

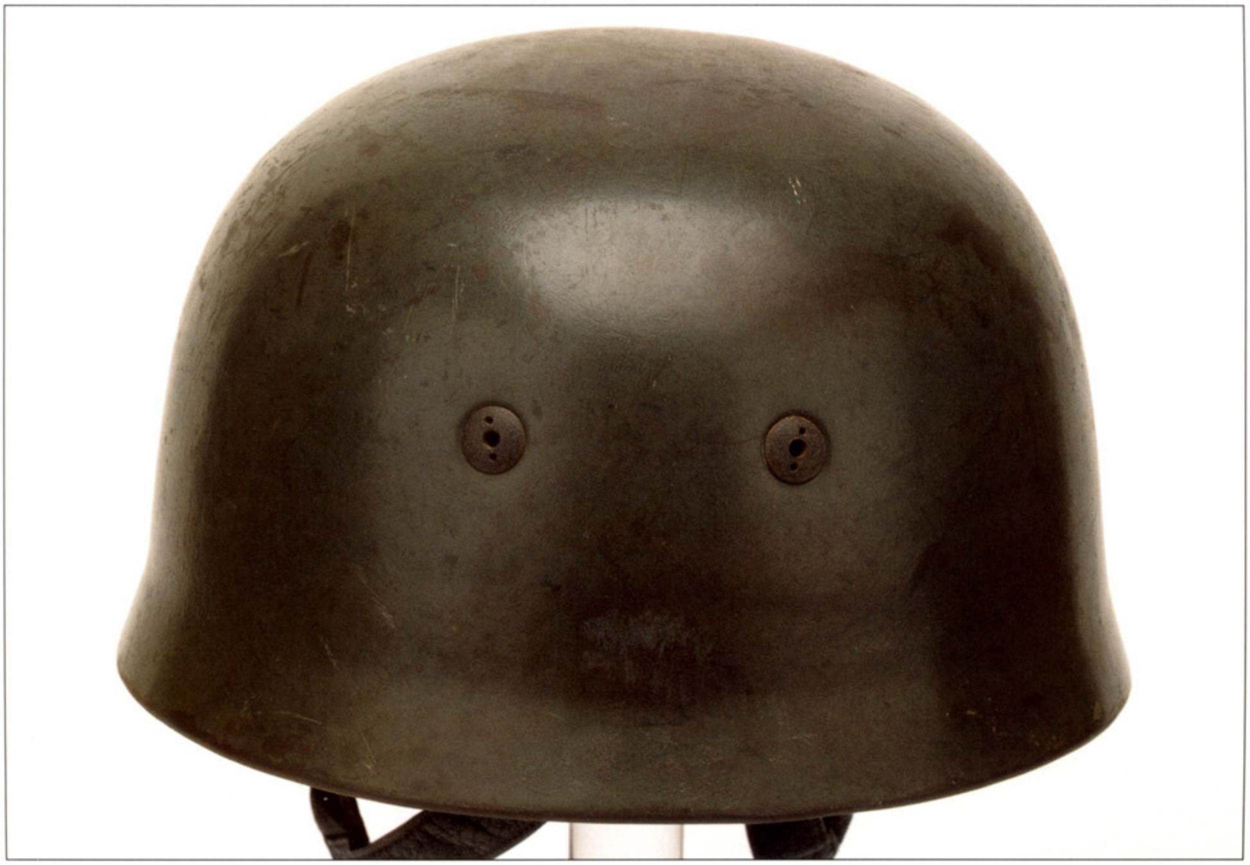


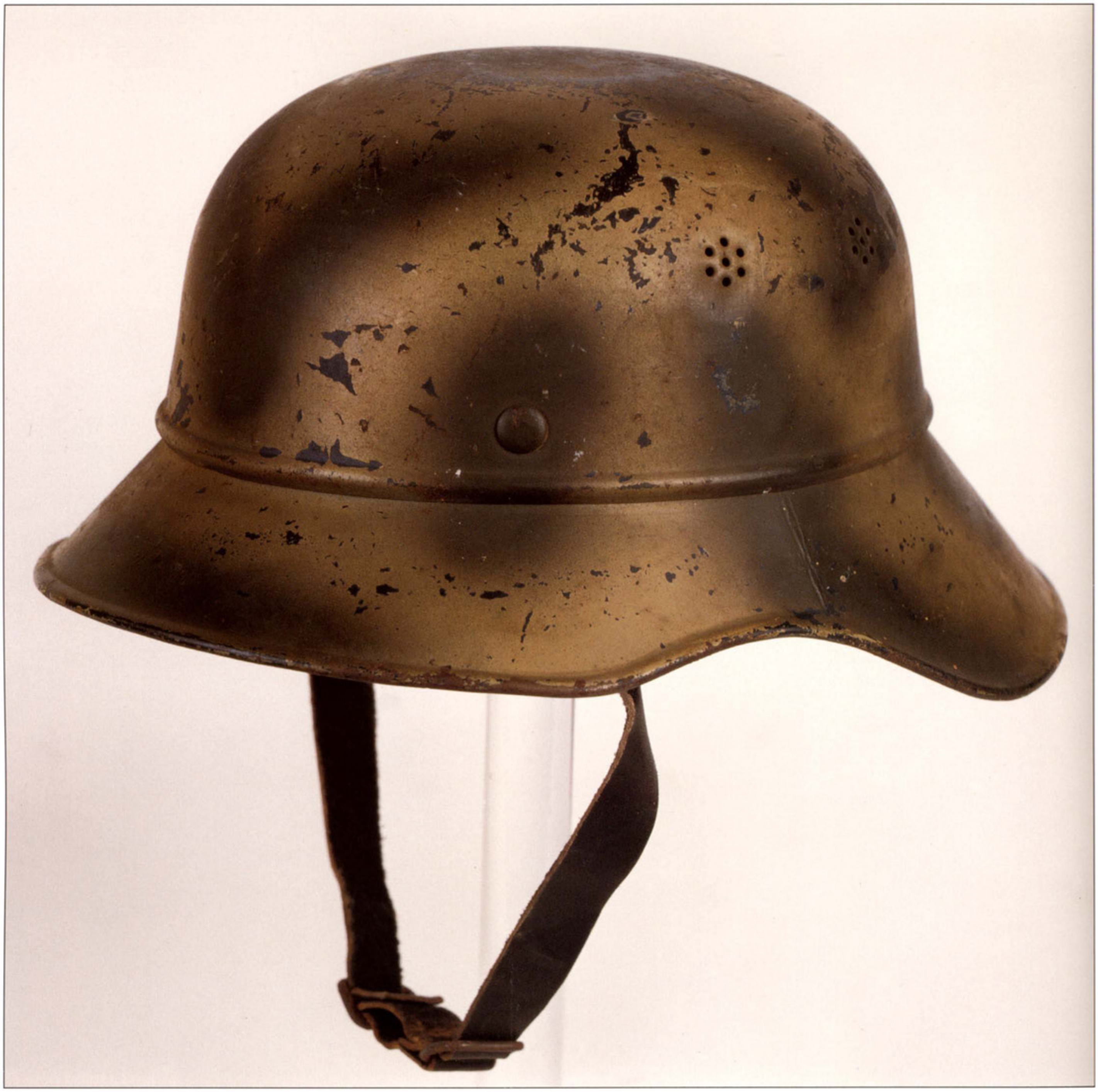


■ M38 painted the pre-war apple green with national shield and Luftwaffe second pattern eagle insignia. The chinstrap is the early sliding gripper model and has been field-modified by cutting two button holes in the leather and sewing a button on to allow for a variable secure setting. The liner is the early pre-war model with light yellow foam rubber cushioning. (Collection of the author)

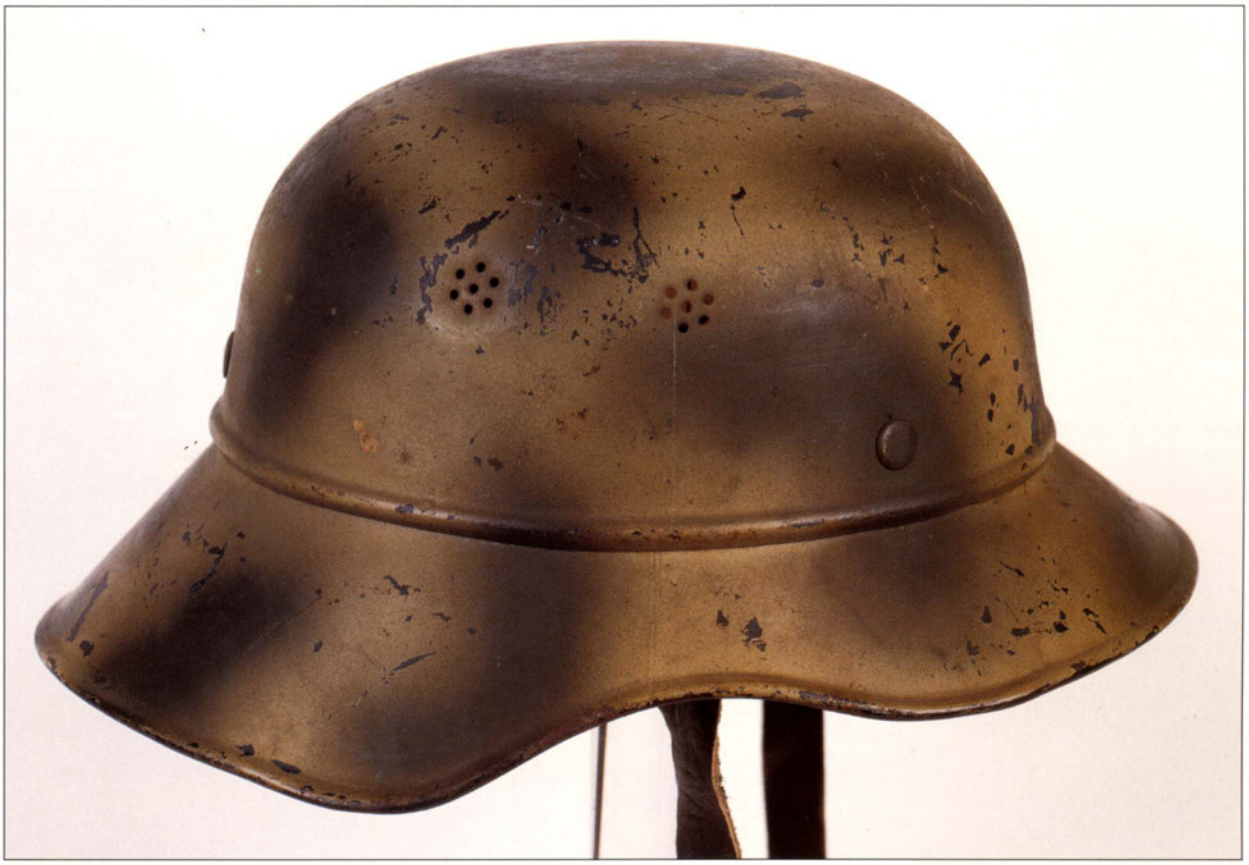


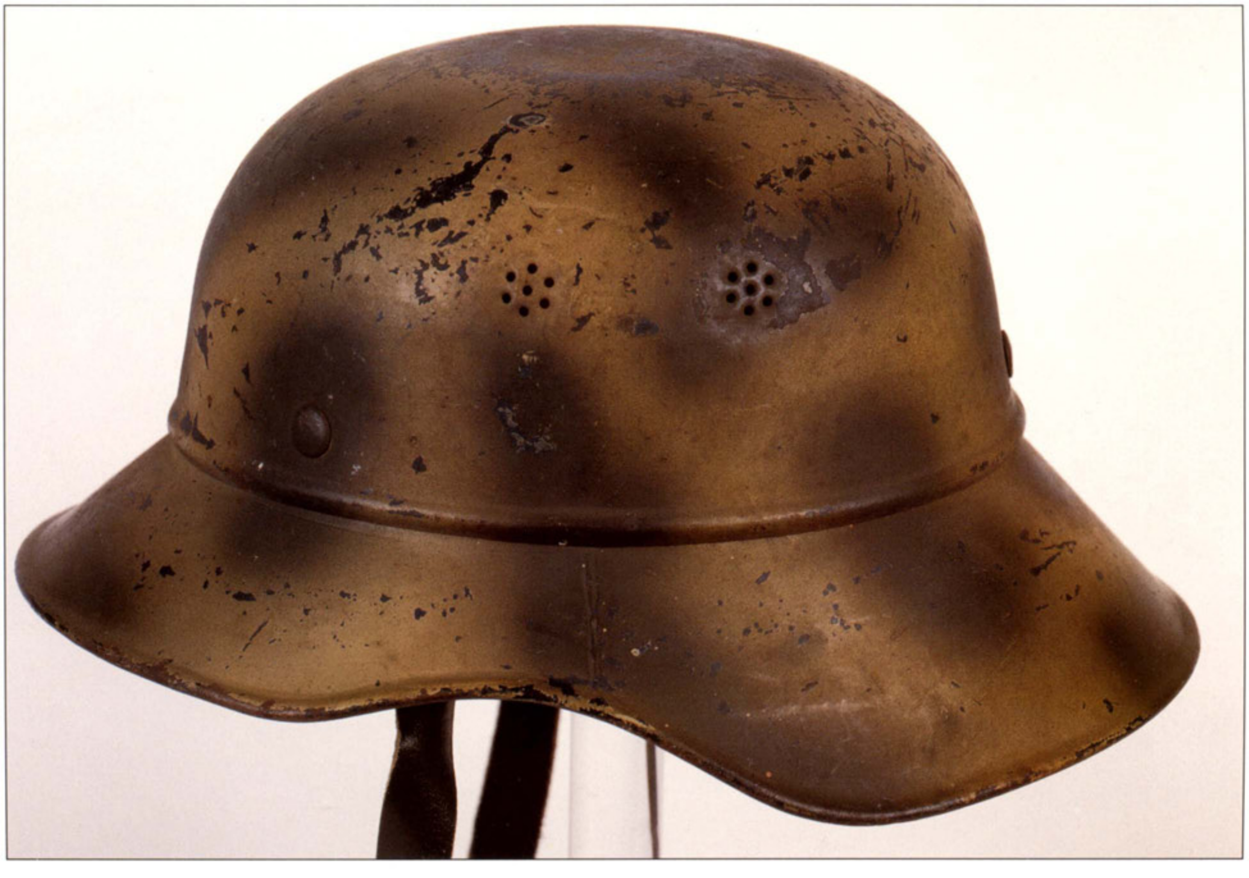


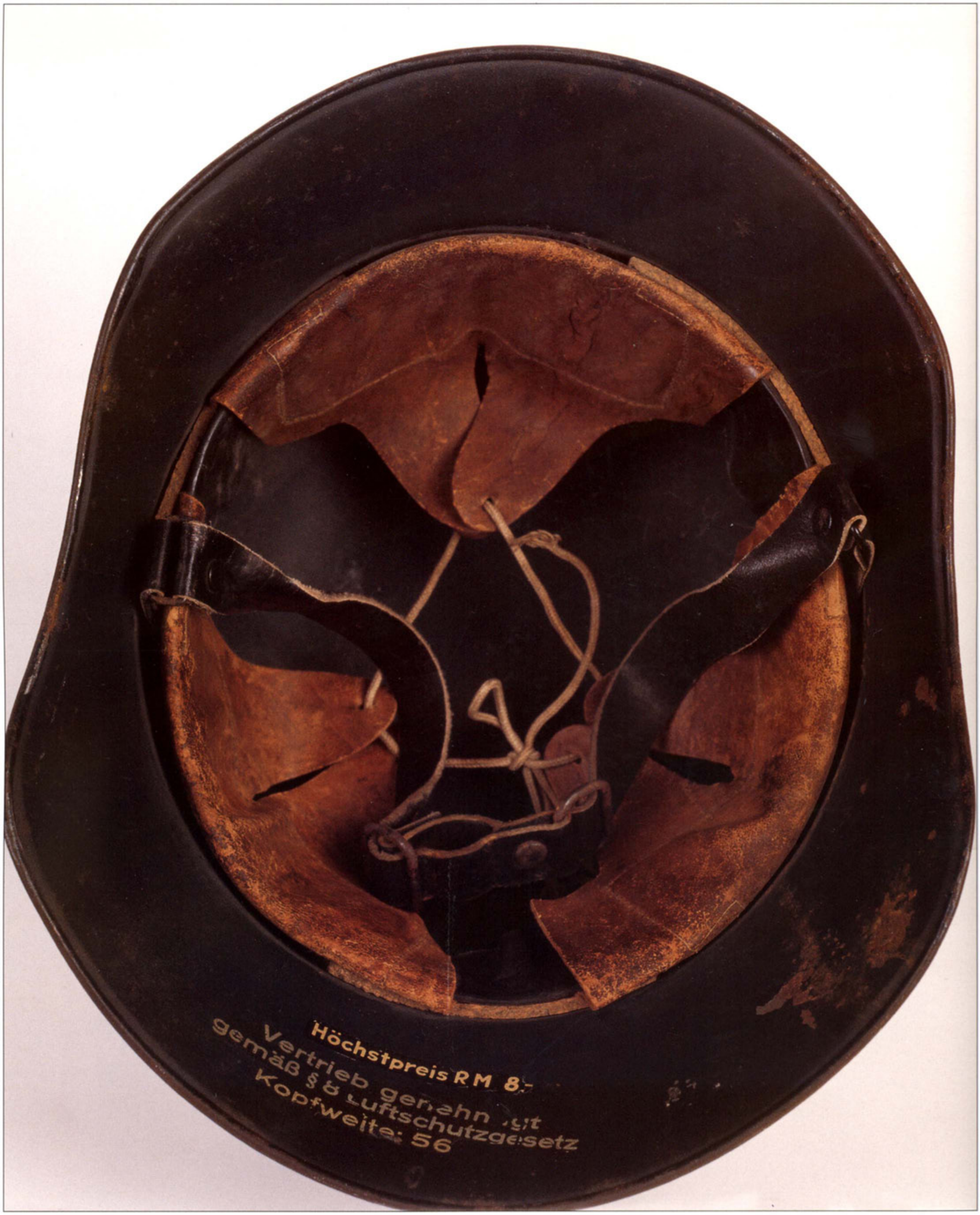


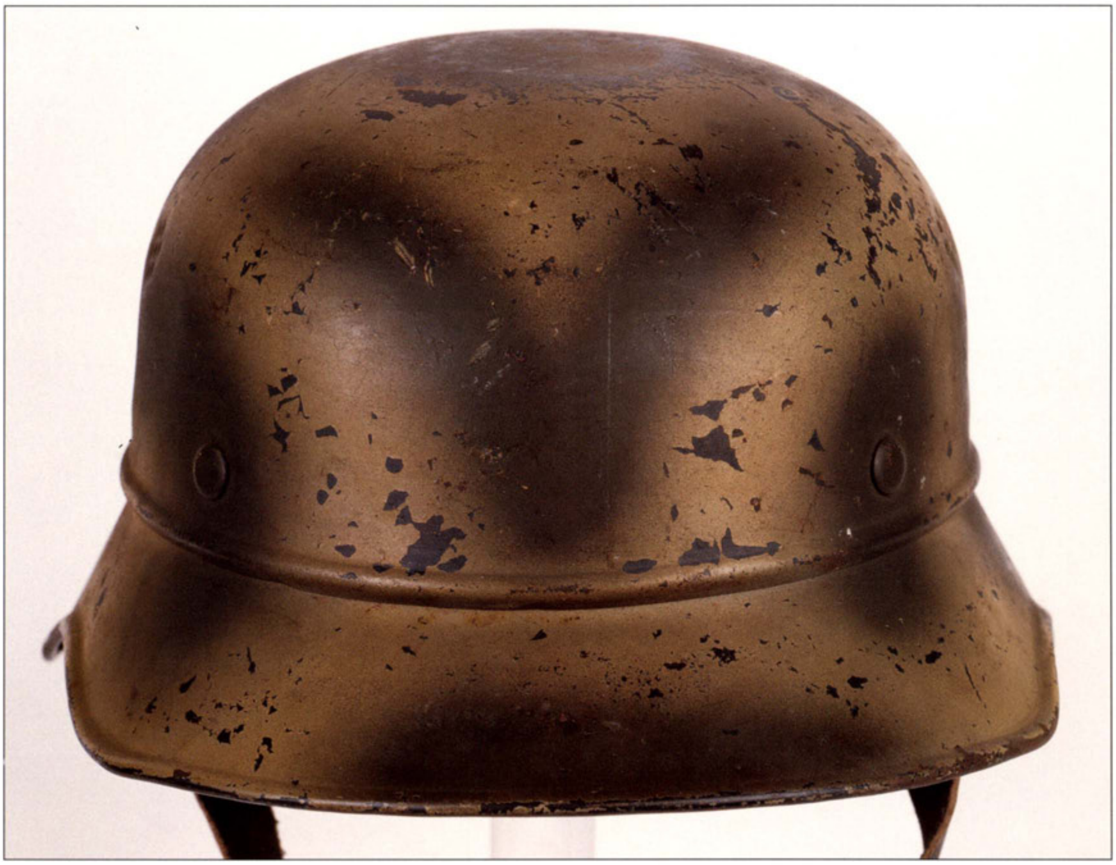


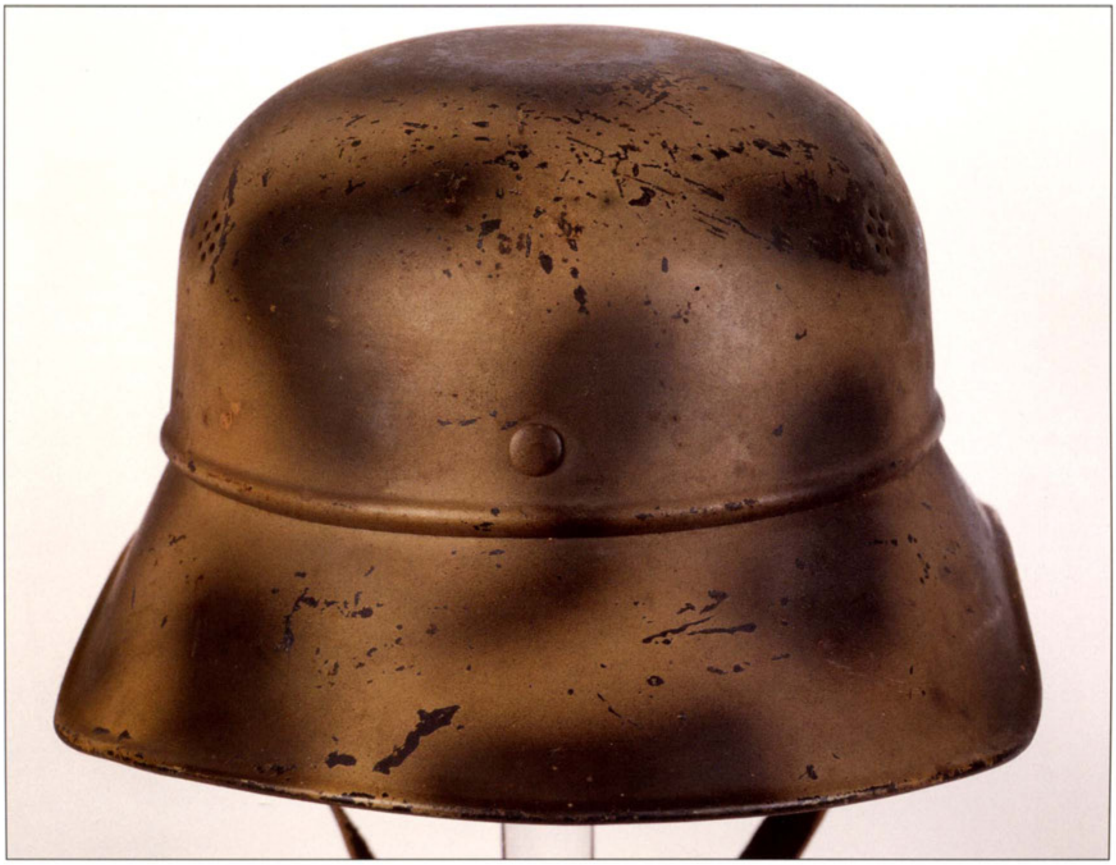
■ A two-piece gladiator style Luftschutz helmet originally painted blue-grey and overpainted in tan with sprayed khaki patches. Probably for use by *Volkssturm* units. (Collection Barry Smith)

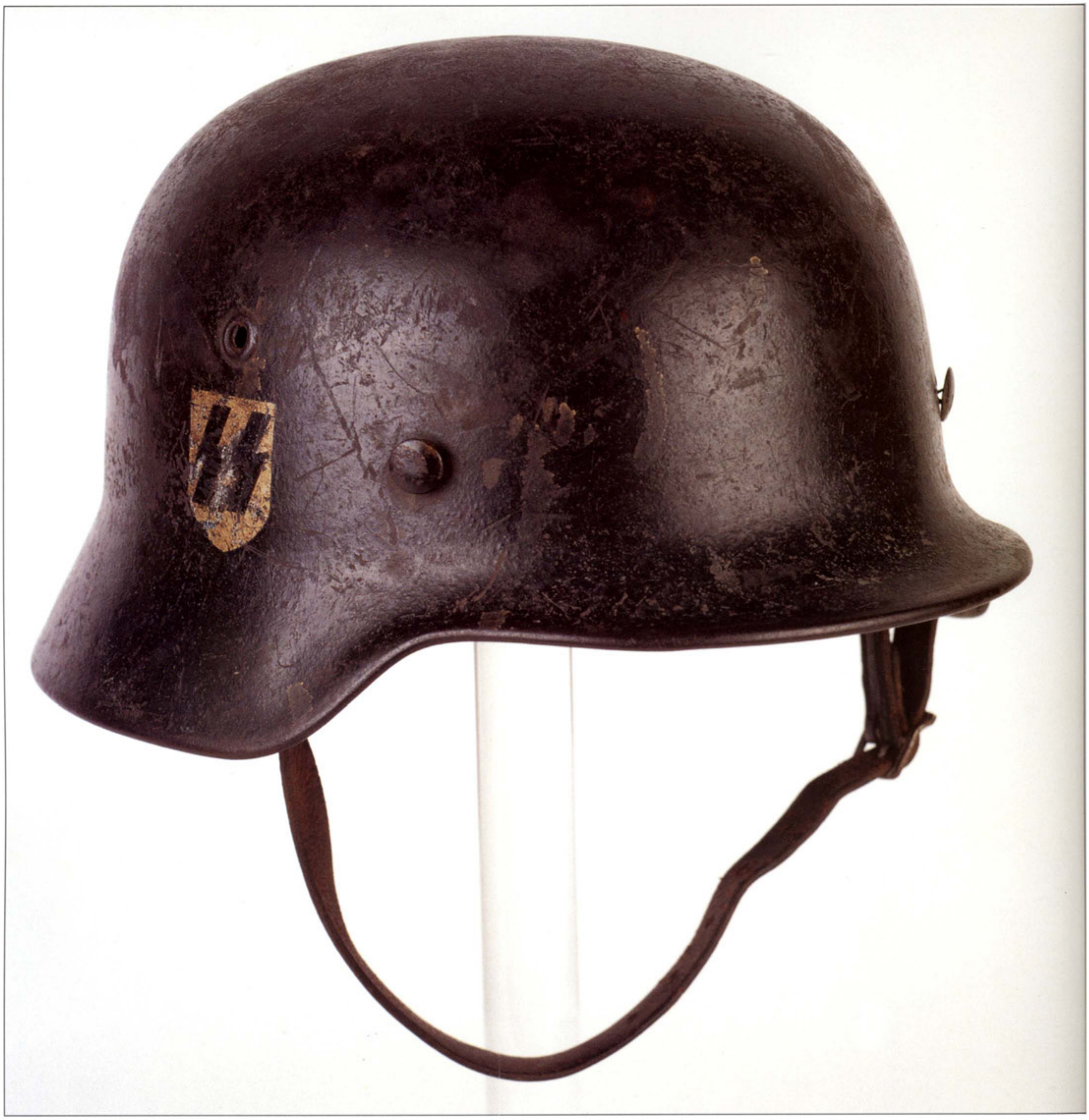




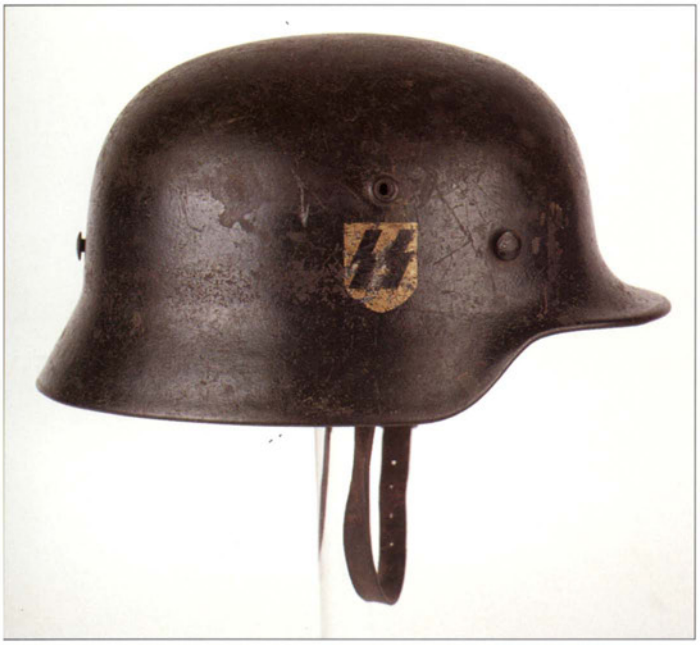

Höchstpreis RM 8.-
Vertrieb genehmigt
gemäß § 8 Luftschutzgesetz
Kopfweite: 56

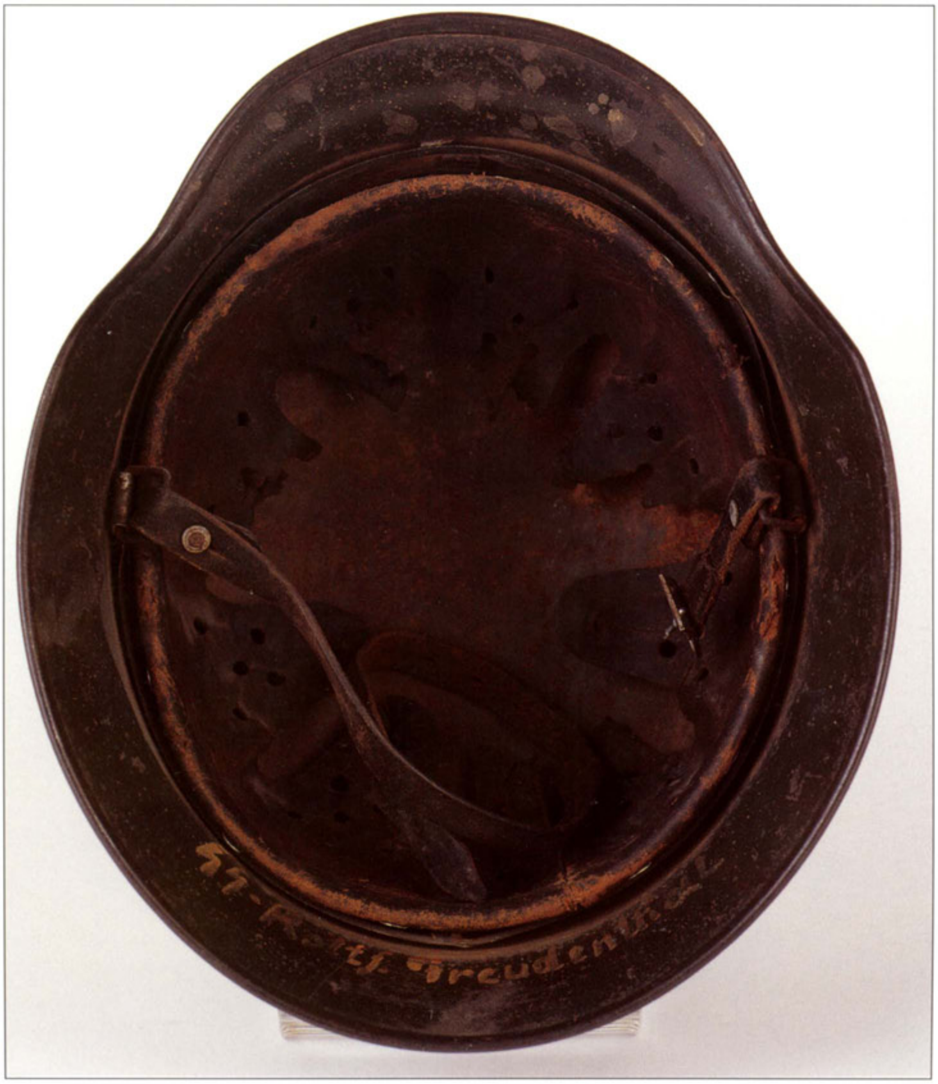


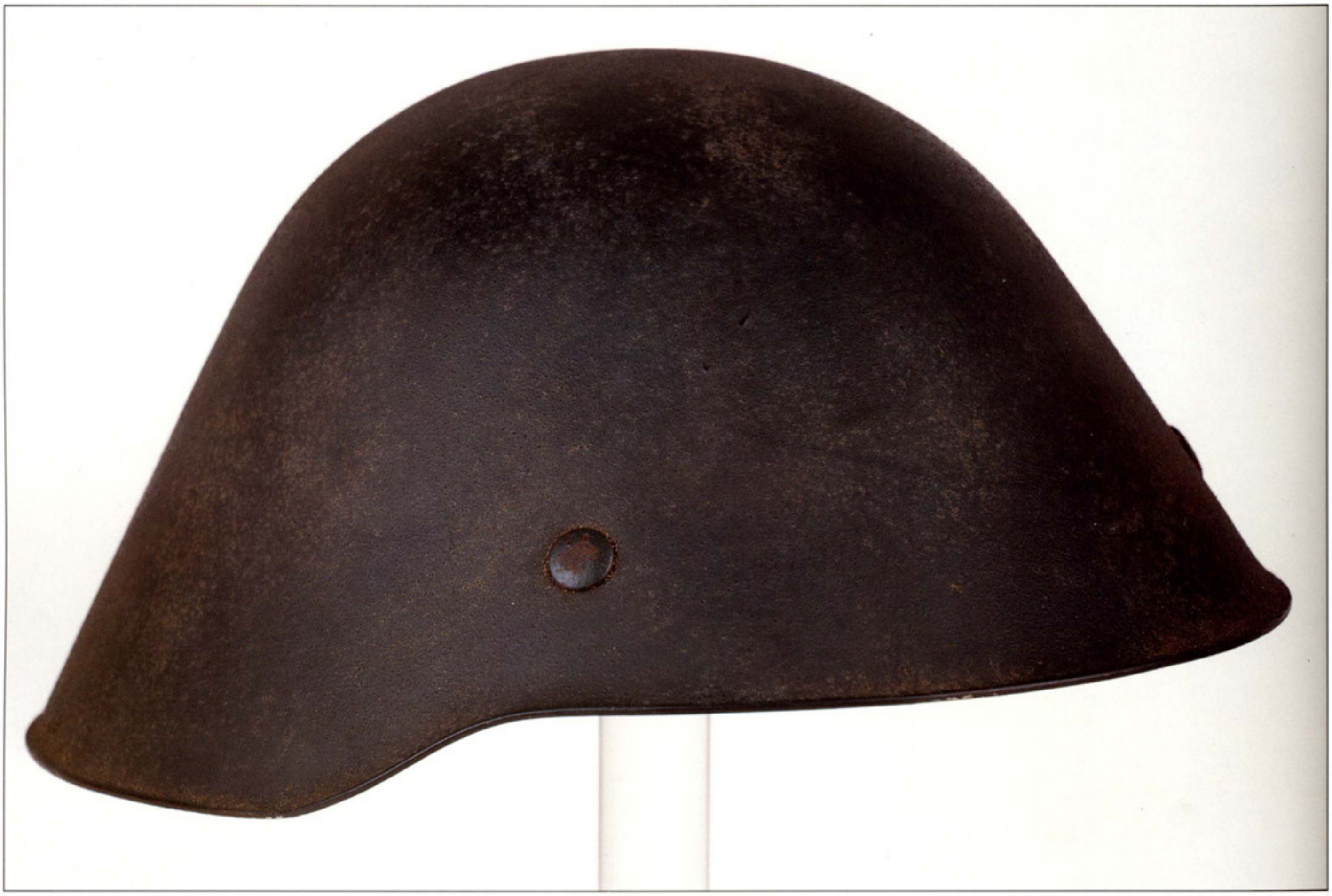




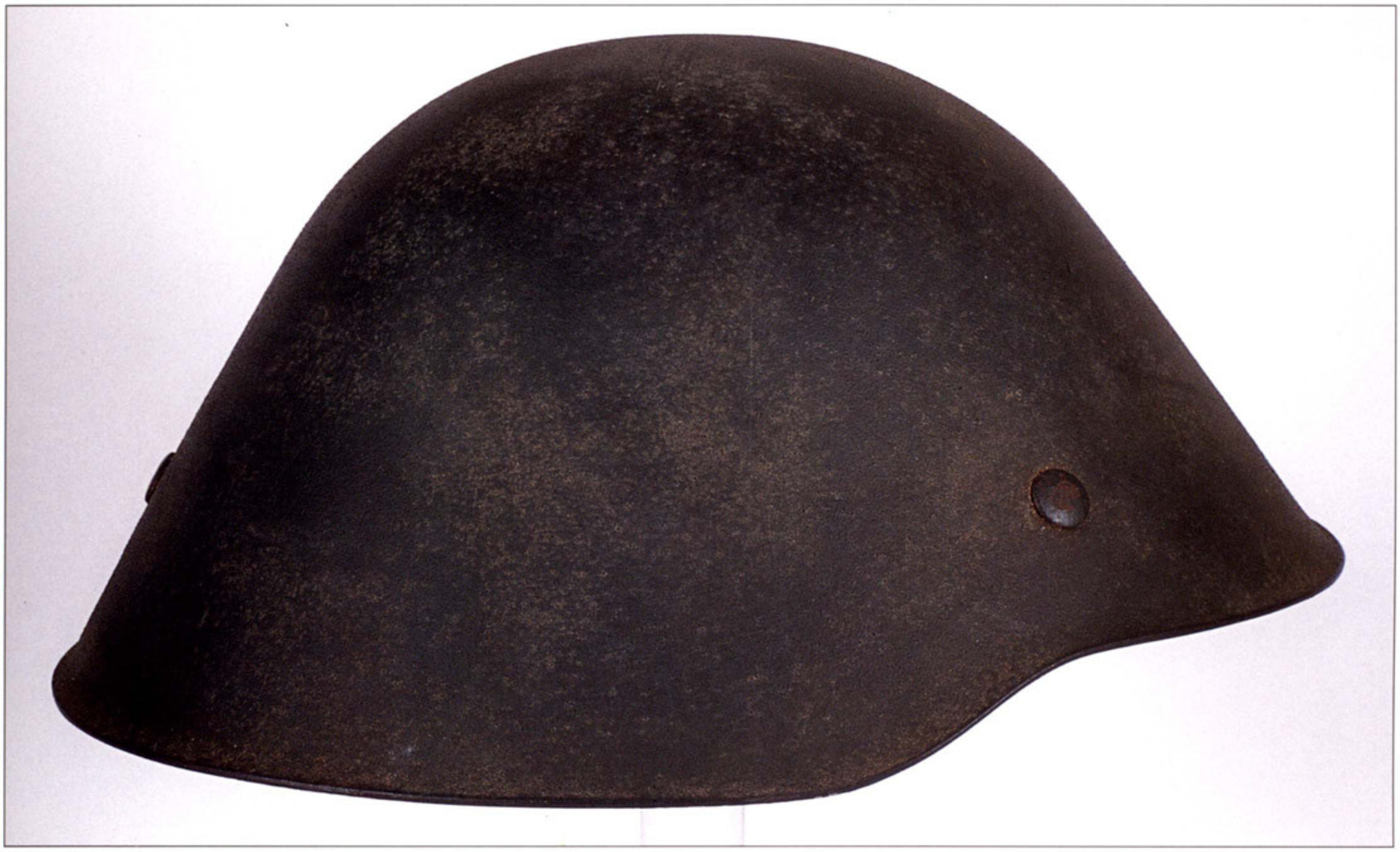
M40 painted a dark grey-green with first pattern SS rune insignia. This helmet was picked up in La Gleize, Ardennes, Belgium after the battle in December 1944 (Collection of Phillippe Gillain - December 44 Museum, La Gleize, Ardennes, Belgium)

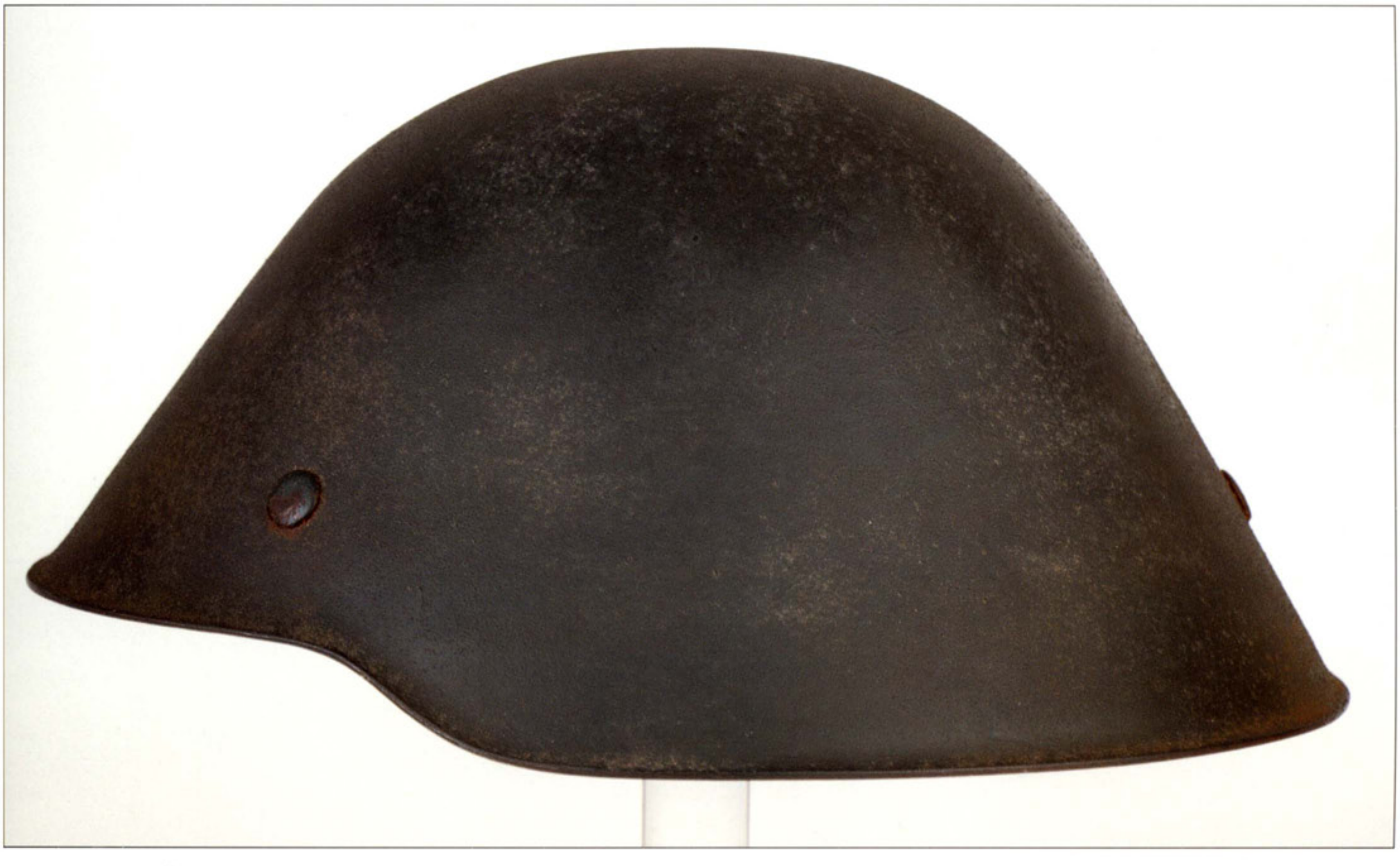


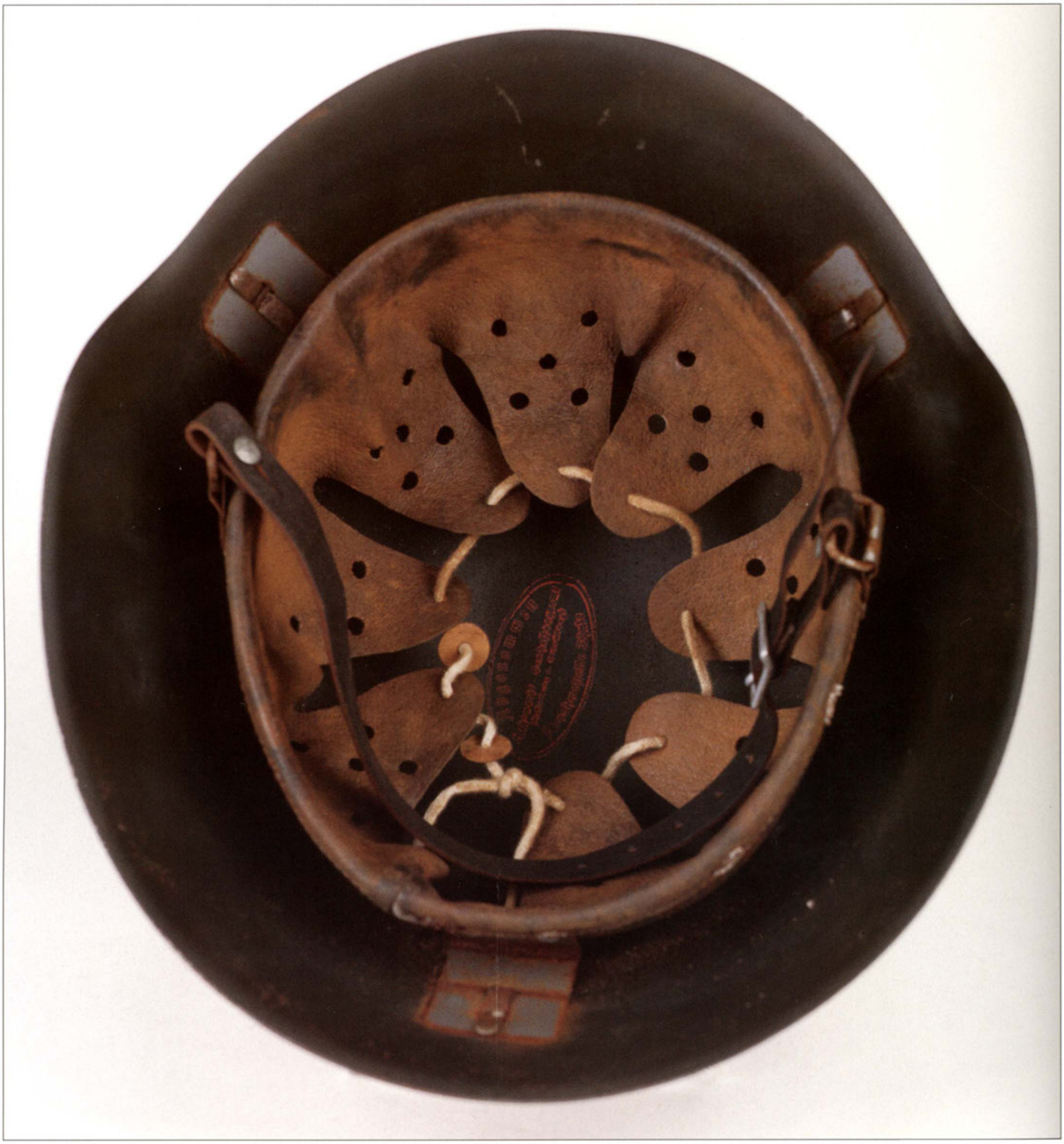

SS-Rgts. Freudenthal

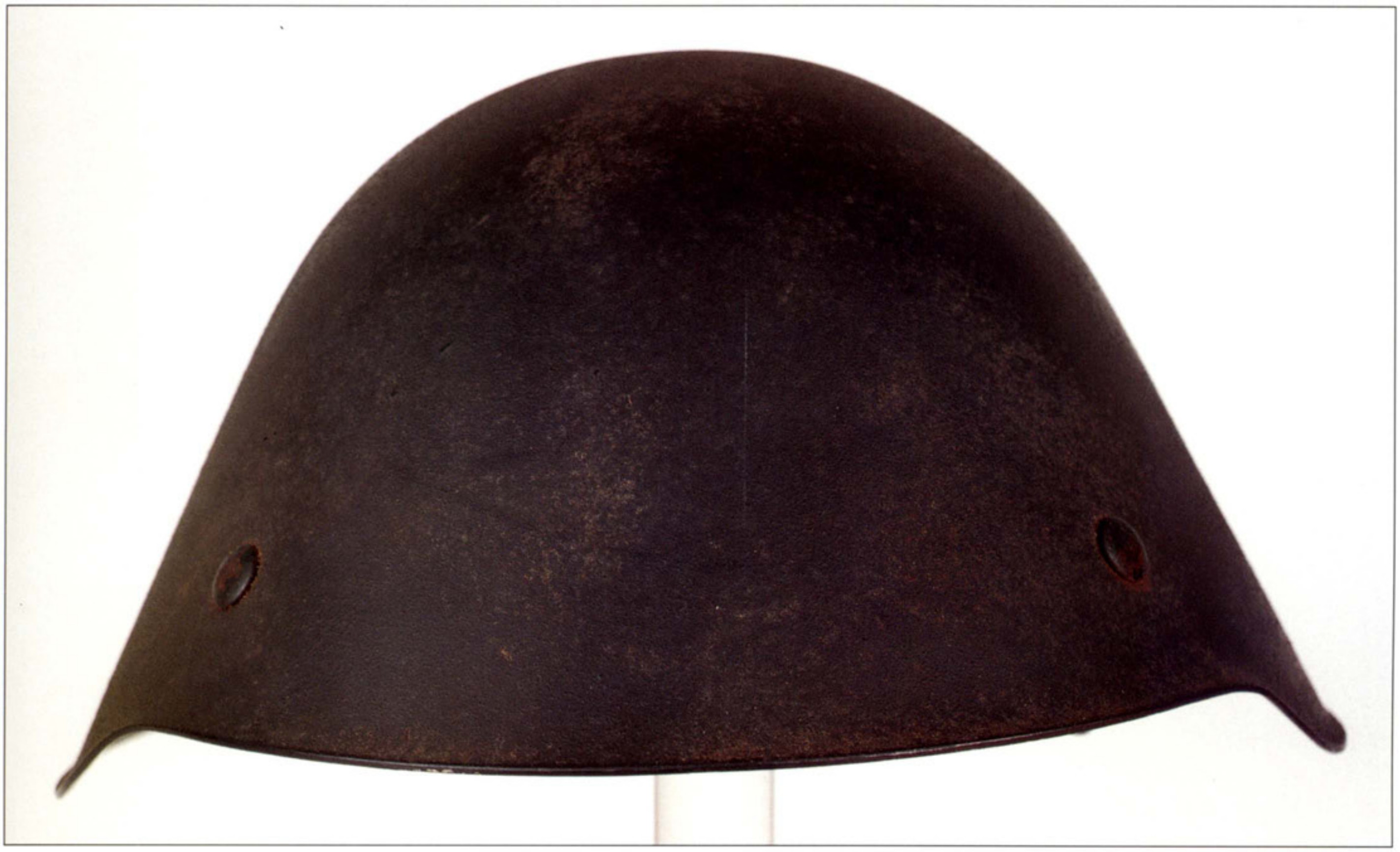


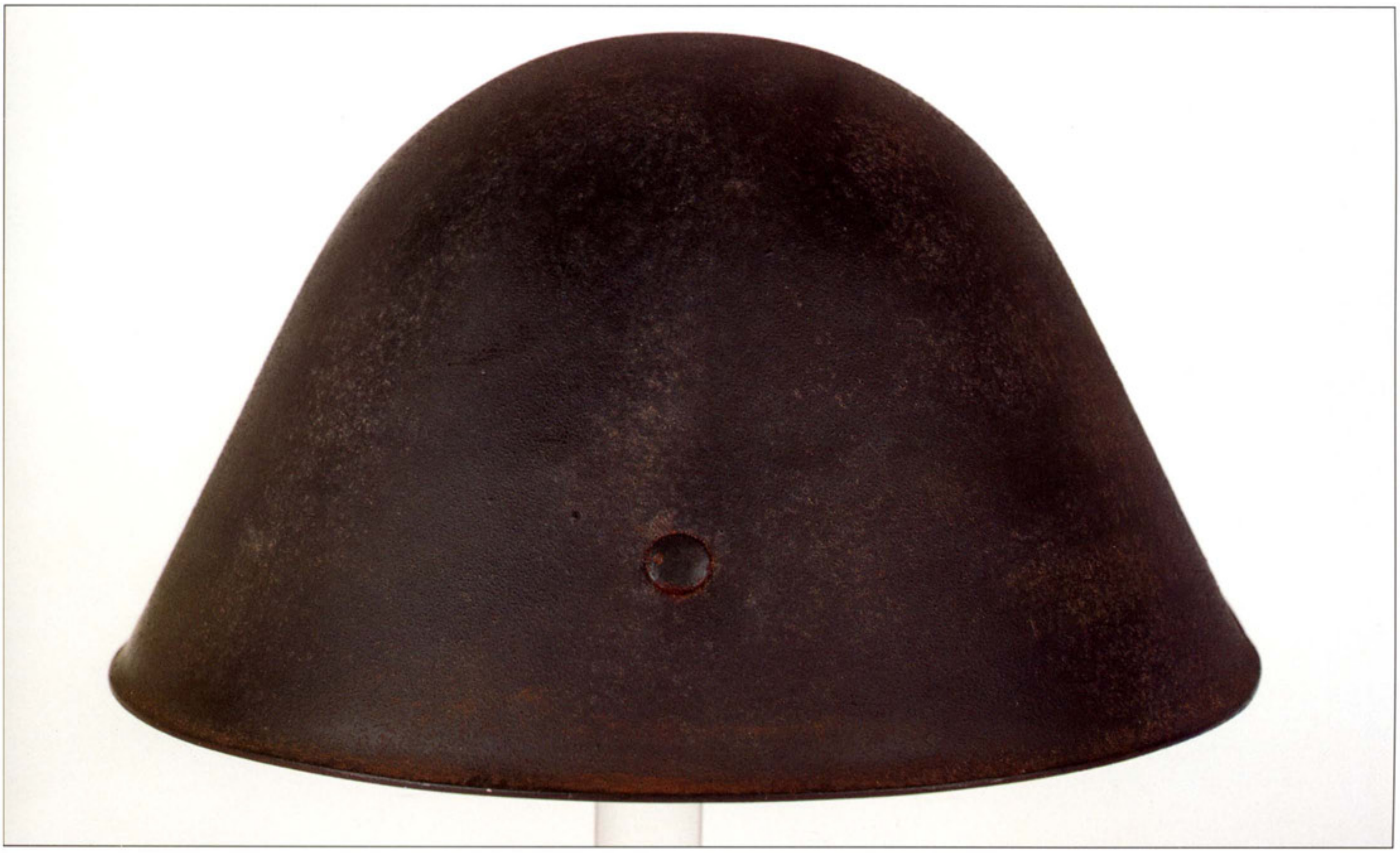
- MB/II painted dark grey, it was developed and was entered for ballistic trials towards the end of 1944. No record of anything past the prototype stage is recorded. The basic design was later taken up by the East German government but with a spot-welded liner system rather than the World War II split-cotter pin method. (Collection of the author)

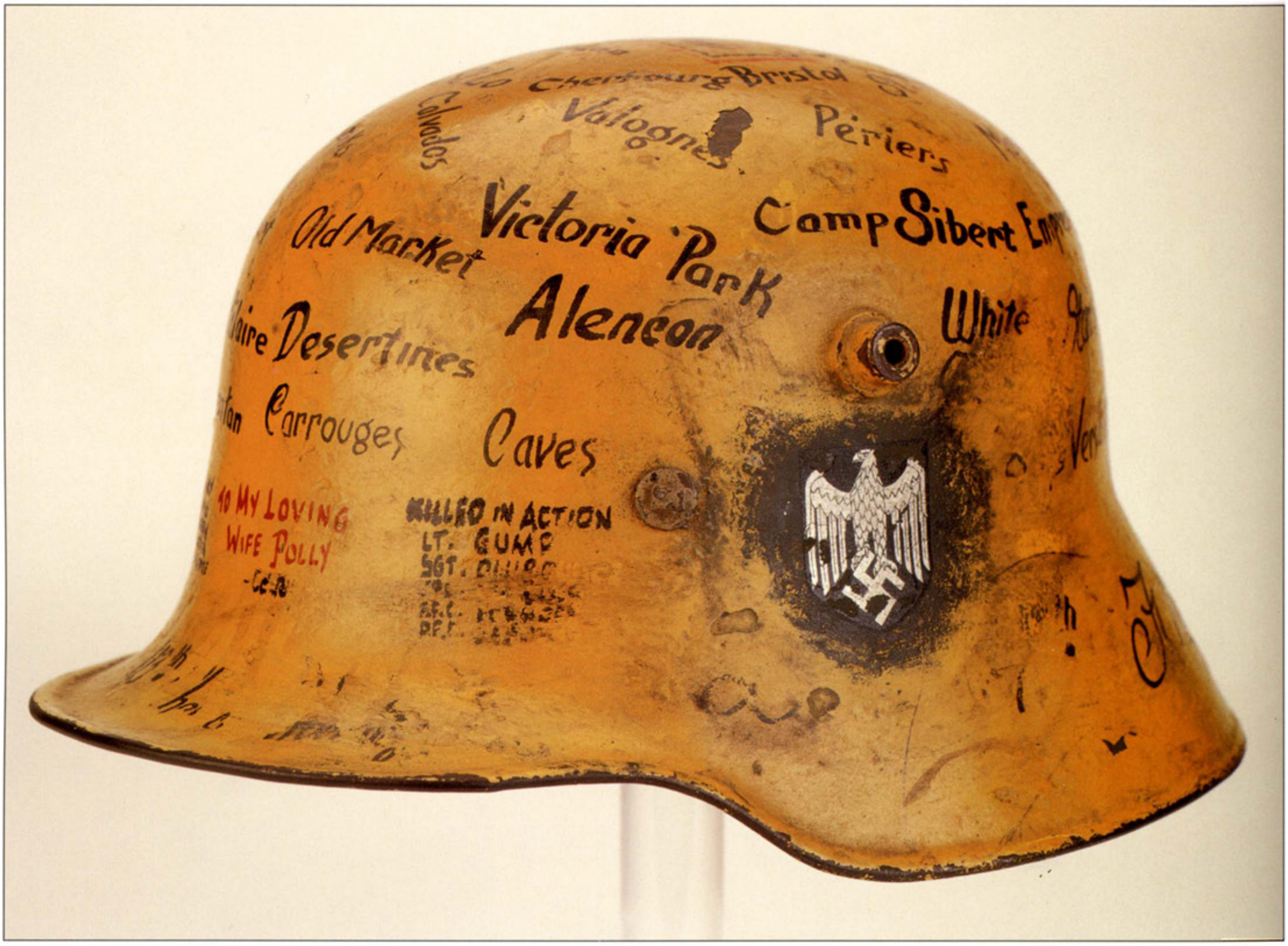




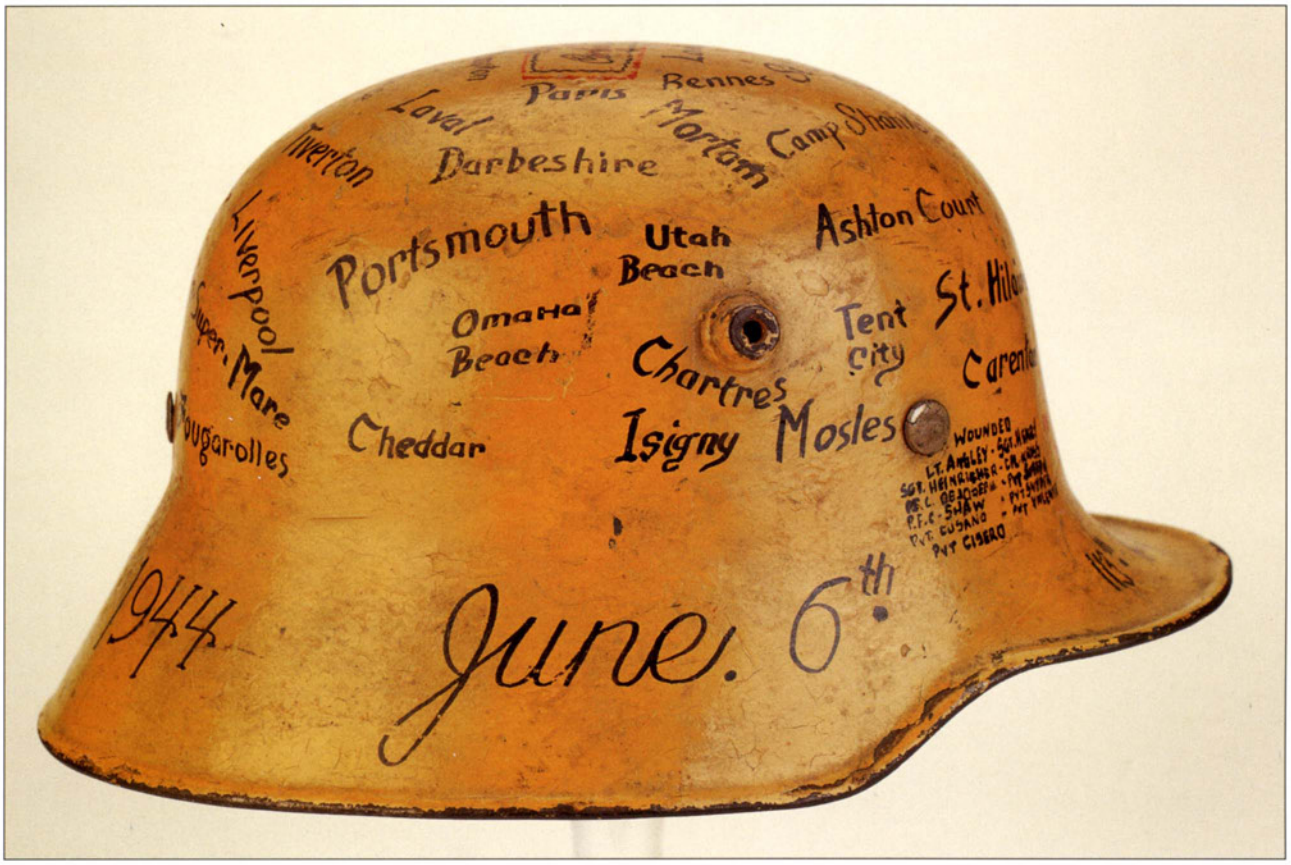


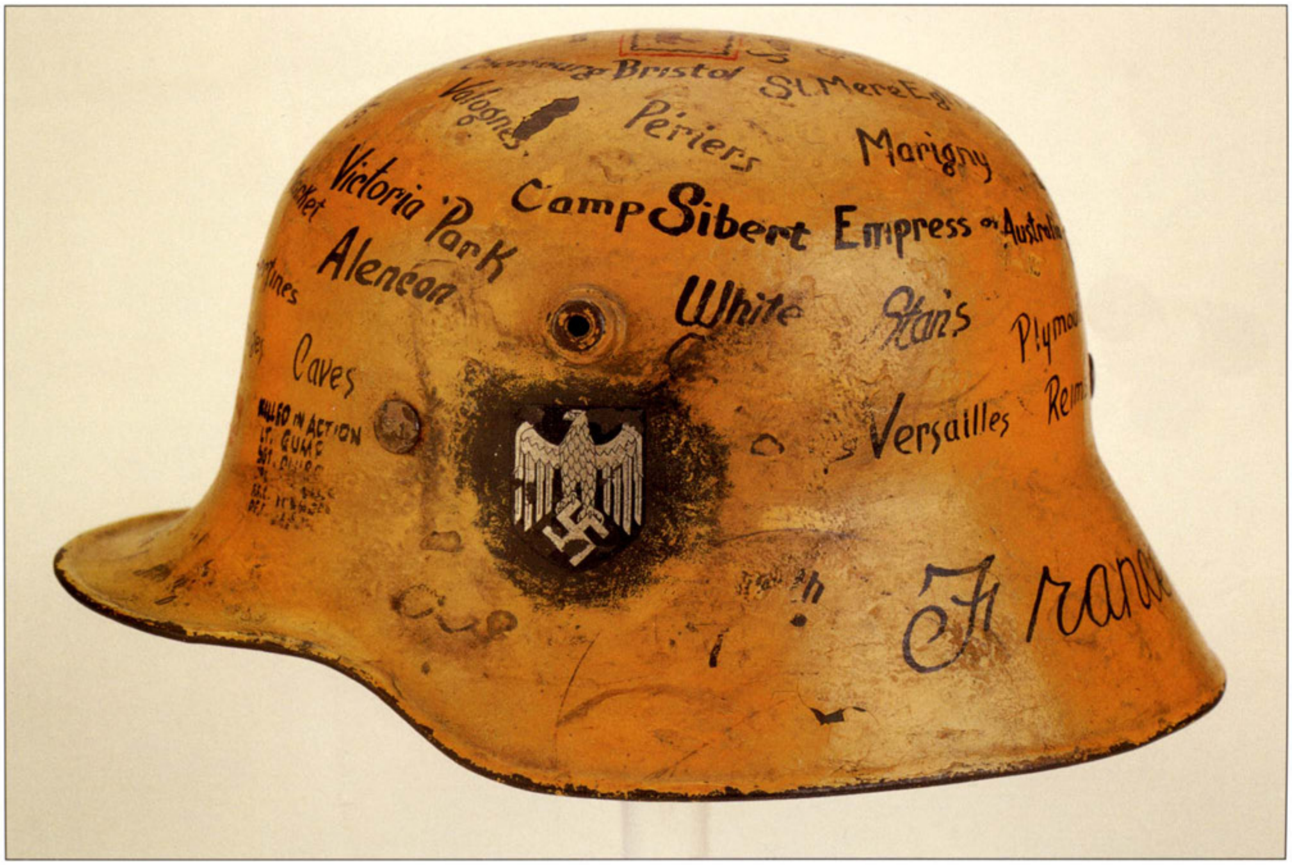


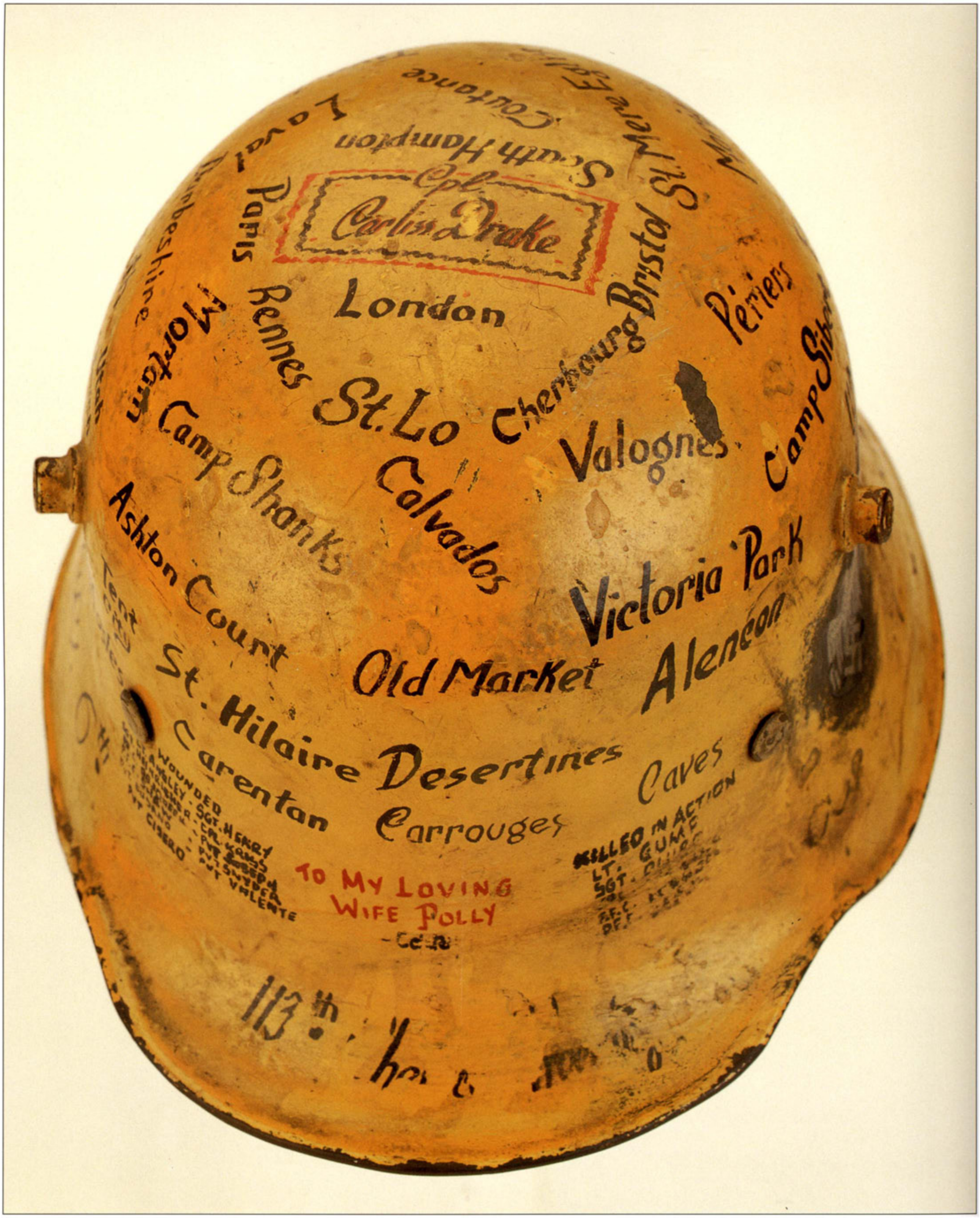



Cherbourg Bristol
Calvados
Valognes
Périers
Old Market
Victoria Park
Camp Sibert
Aleneon
White
Desertines
Carrouges
Caves
TO MY LOVING WIFE POLLY
KILLED IN ACTION
LT. GUMP

M18 transitional trophy helmet with M31 liner system. Originally painted grey-green then overpainted by U.S. Corporal Carliss Drake in yellow complete with training grounds, troopship, staging posts, areas of operation and casualty lists. (Collection of Brian Maederer - Military Collectibles)


Paris
Rennes
Laval
Mortain
Camp Shanks
Tiverton
Darbeshire
Liverpool
Portsmouth
Utah Beach
Ashton Court
Omaha Beach
Tent City
St. Hilaire
Super. Mare
Chartres
Carentan
Bougarolles
Cheddar
Isigny
Mosles
WOUNDED
LT. ANSLEY - SGT.
SGT. HEINRICHER - CPL.
PFC. OBJOOEFA - PVT.
P.F.C. SHAW - PVT.
PVT. CUSANO - PVT.
PVT CISERO
1944
June. 6th


Bristol
St. Mere Eglise
Valognes
Periers
Marigny
Victoria Park
Camp Sibert
Empress of Australia
Alencon
White
Star's
Plymouth
Caves
KILLED IN ACTION
LT. GUMP
Versailles
Reims
France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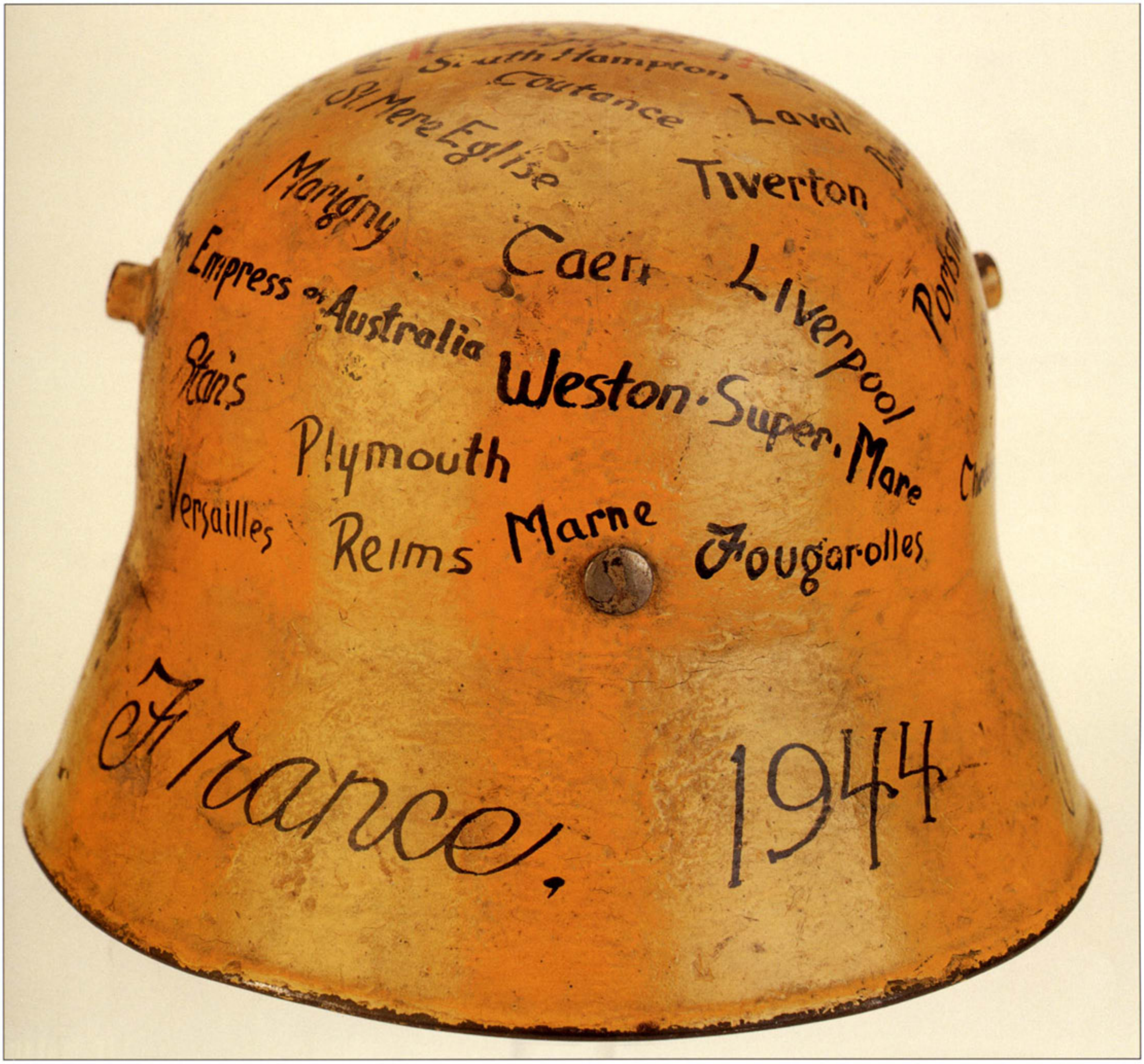
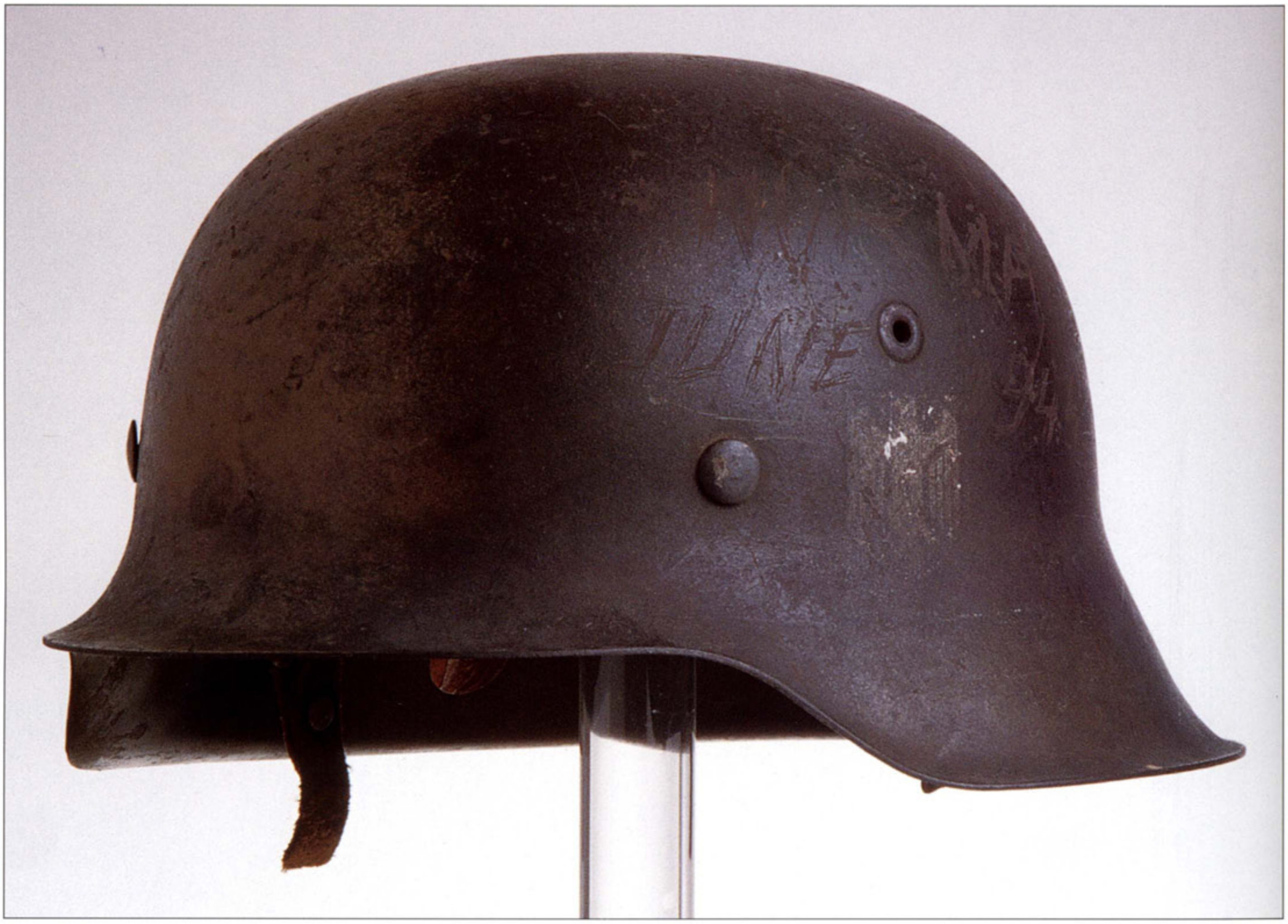
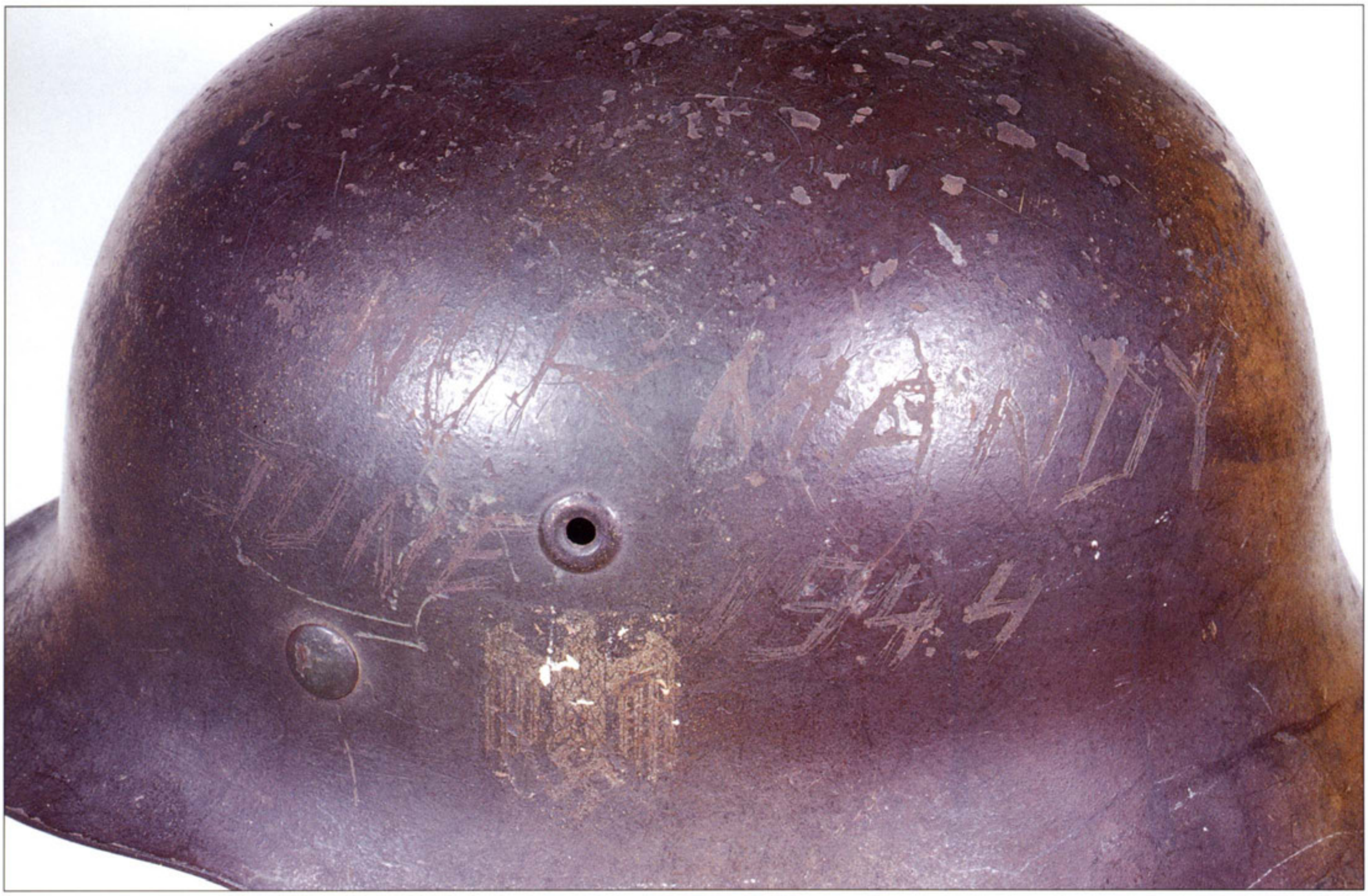
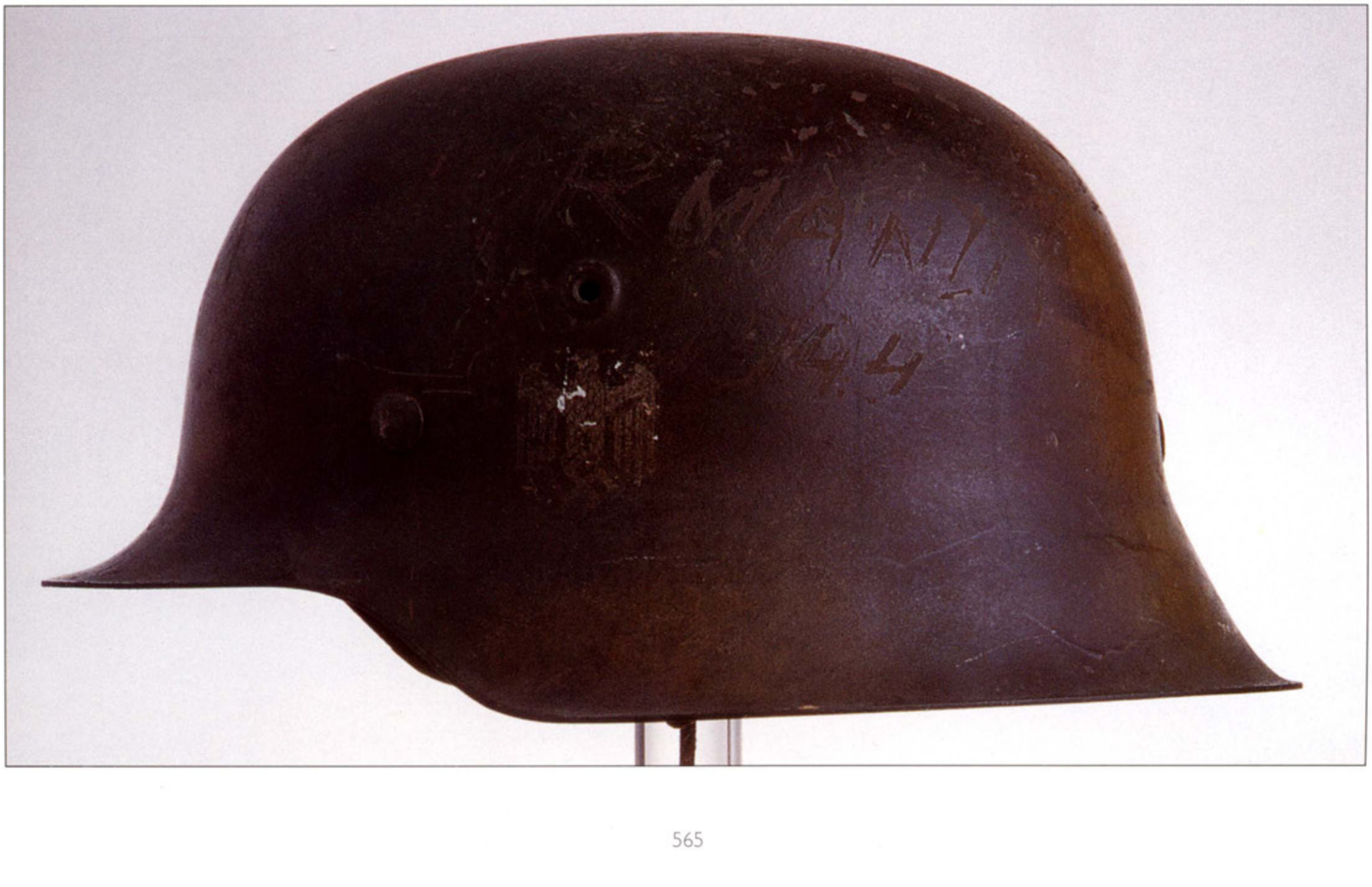
Laval
South Hampton
Cpl
Carlisle Drake
Paris
Bristol
Derbeshire
Mortan
Rennes
London
Periers
Cherbourg
St. Lo
Valognes
Camp Shanks
Calvados
Ashton Court
Victoria Park
Old Market
Alençon
St. Hilaire
Carentan
Desertines
Caves
Carrouges
WOUNDED
SGT. HENRY
CPL. KAMS
PVT. SNYDER
PVT VALENTE
CISERO
TO MY LOVING
WIFE POLLY
KILLED IN ACTION
LT.
SGT.
P.F.C.
P.F.C.
113th


South Hampton
Coutance
St. Mere Eglise
Laval
Marigny
Tiverton
Caen
Empress of Australia
Liverpool
Stan's
Weston-Super-Mare
Plymouth
Versailles
Reims
Marne
Fougarolles
France,
1944

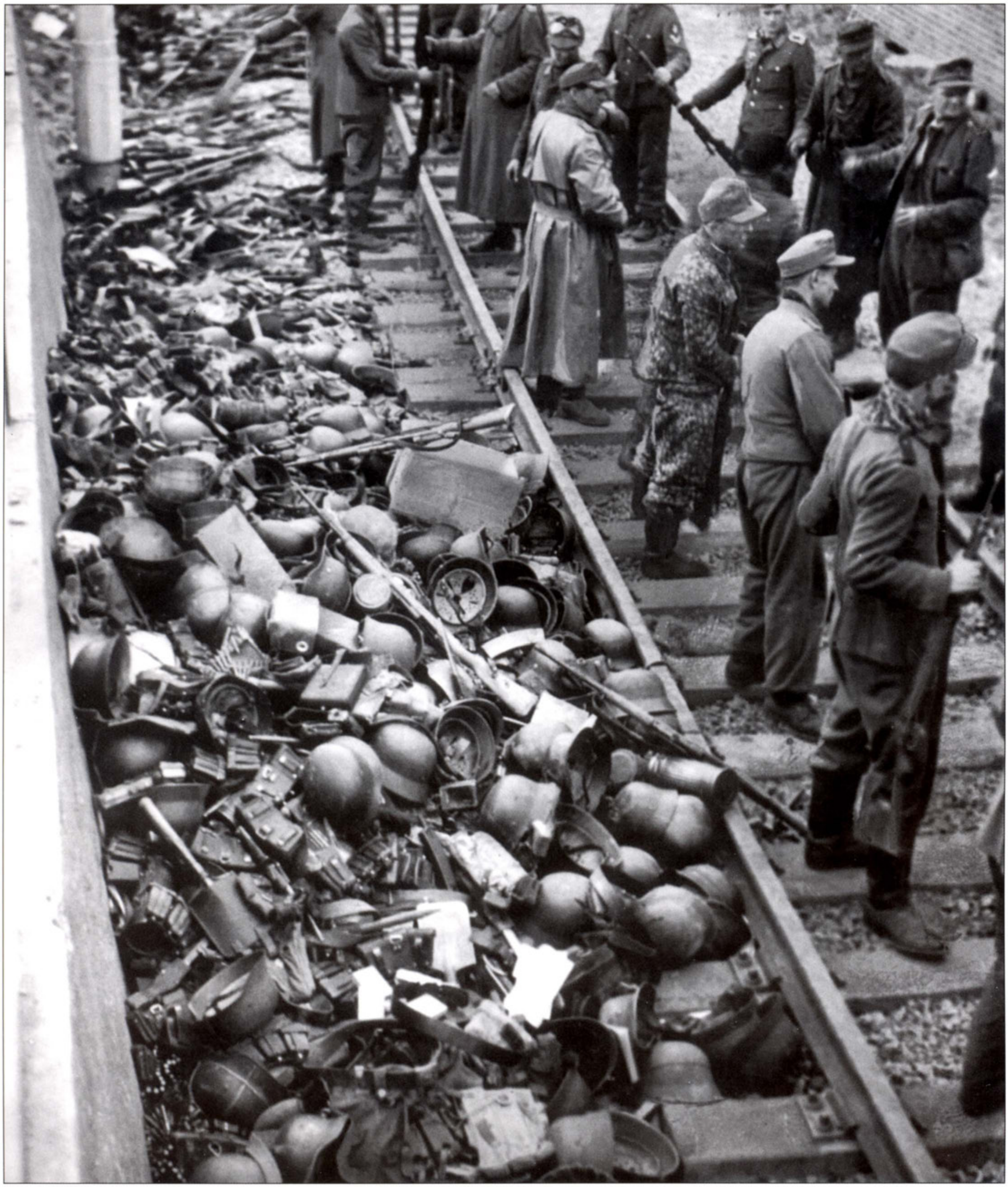


M42 originally painted a dark grey-green with sprayed patches of tan, brown and green. The Wehrmacht eagle insignia is visible through the paint and has the words "NORMANDY JUNE 1944" scratched into the shell. (Collection of David Asselin)


NORMANDY
JUNE 1944


RMANDY
944

Period Photos



German troops surrender at Tangermunde, Germany on May 13, 1945. *(Author)*

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